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No. 38

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DELAY).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 6, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM DELAY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Reverend L.H. Hardwick, Jr., Pastor, Christ Church, Nashville, TN, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, whose law kindles human conscience and sustains human government, we acknowledge our Nation to be yet sustained by those precepts our Founders committed us to keep. Strengthen, we pray, the foundations of this land. Save us from any hardness of heart or from the cynical disregard for Your ways. Deliver us, O Lord, from petty dissension. Increase our civility. Cultivate in us all that is good, beautiful, and true.

Grant to our leaders a tender spirit toward the people whose trust they hold and whose futures they influence. Give them forbearance and grace one toward another, that they may faithfully discern the common good for our country.

We ask You now to hold these, the Members of the United States Congress, in Your holy and mighty hand. May they do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God. We confidently ask these things in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COOPER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PASTOR, THE REVEREND L.H. HARDWICK, JR.

(Mr. COOPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to introduce as our guest chaplain my good friend Reverend L.H. Hardwick, Jr., the senior pastor of Christ Church in Nashville, TN.

Reverend Hardwick was born and raised in Nashville, and he attended the Freewill Baptist Bible College before he was called to the ministry at the remarkably young age of 18. Dr. Hardwick has held honorary doctoral degrees from the Moody Theological Seminary and Emmanuel Bible College. Reverend Hardwick is truly remarkable and has dedicated over 54 years of faithful service to his congregation as pastor of Christ Church.

The reverend has tirelessly led Christ Church through three moves due to growth, and now the church has over 3,500 members and is listed as one of

the fastest growing congregations in America.

A dedicated community servant as well as pastor, Pastor Hardwick has been appointed by the Governor of Tennessee to serve 8 years on the Board of Trustees of the State Mental Health Association. He is a member of the Metro Pastors Association, 12 of Nashville's most distinguished ministers. He has been a key part of the board of Operation Andrew, which is the outreach board for Pastor Billy Graham and his ministry in uniting the body of Christ in Middle Tennessee. This year, Pastor Hardwick and his wife, Montelle, are celebrating their 55th year of marriage.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is again an honor and privilege to be able to welcome such a distinguished individual to the U.S. House of Representatives. Pastor L.H. Hardwick, Jr., is truly a fine man and did a wonderful job in delivering our opening prayer.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation among the Speaker, the majority and minority leaders, the Chair announces that during the joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his right and left will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the Chair feels the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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not be allowed. Members may reserve their seat by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

# RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 5, 2005, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at about 10:45 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

□ 1045

## JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DELAY) presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Bill Sims, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker pro tempore, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair appoints as member of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE);

The gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN); and

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko into the Chamber:

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM);

The Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE);

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR);

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW); and

The Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, the Honorable Jesse Bibiano Marehalau, Ambassador of Micronesia.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the President of Ukraine, His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko.

The President of Ukraine, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

## ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

(The following address was delivered in Ukrainian, with a simultaneous translation in English.)

President YUSHCHENKO. Mr. Speaker and Mr. President, honorable Senators and House Members, ladies and gentlemen, on the wall of this great building, there is the Latin phrase *E Pluribus Unum*, which means "Out of many, one." This motto reminds the world about the American Revolution, the starting point of the modern world's history of liberty.

My road here went through the orange-colored Independence Square that became known as Maidan. Millions of people standing there continuously repeated it: "Together we are many, we cannot be defeated." This motto of the Ukrainian Revolution is a reminder of the fact that freedom continues to win. Ukraine is opening a new page in the world's chronicle of liberty in the 21st century.

These two mottos have a lot in common. They speak to the strength of our peoples that comes from unity. They speak of the victories of our peoples in their struggles for freedom.

For me the invitation to speak before the Joint Session of Congress is an expression of respect for my Ukrainian nation. I am deeply honored to speak from the rostrum where before me stood so many great leaders: Winston Churchill, Lech Walesa, Nelson Mandela.

I am grateful for the unique opportunity to address this great forum of the American people. I perceive your eagerness to hear the new Ukraine as a token of partnership of the two nations united by shared democratic values.

On behalf of the Ukrainian people, I would like to thank the United States Congress; U.S. Presidents George Walker Bush, Bill Clinton, George Bush; and the entire American Nation for their invariable respect for Ukraine and their support for Ukraine's democracy. I would like to pay special tribute to President Ronald Reagan. He is well remembered in Ukraine for his deep commitment to freedom of Ukraine.

It is of special significance for me to express our gratitude right in this room. It is here that the Ukrainian nation enjoyed support in the hardest times of its history. It is here where the rights of enslaved nations were advocated. It is from this hall where the world came to know the truth about the Holodomor, the genocide famine masterminded to annihilate millions of Ukrainians. It is in this hall that freedom for Ukraine was voiced at a time when the nation was deprived of its own voice. Your words reached us and gave us hope. We heard them because at all times Ukrainians felt related to Americans in the space of freedom. In this space of freedom, no Iron Curtain could divide us.

In your city there is a monument to the Father of the Ukrainian nation, the great poet Taras Shevchenko, whose prophecy of the emergence in Ukraine of its own "Washington with a new and righteous law" is enshrined on its pedestal. These verses have a profound and special meaning for all Ukrainians. Shevchenko was inspired by the invincible power of the words: "That God has bestowed each man on Earth with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." This shared conviction determines the unity of Americans and Ukrainians, and no distances can obstruct it.

The American example of freedom has always been alluring. All the regimes that have sought to suppress democracy in Ukraine would often endeavor to nurture anti-American phobias, but they would invariably fail. Efforts of our American friends, who in the past so generously shared their democratic experience with us, enhanced the partnership between our two nations. For me, gratitude for these efforts has a personal dimension. It was through one of these programs

that I met my wife, Kateryna Chumachenko Yushchenko, whose love and commitment gave me the strength to withstand the trials of the last months and years. I want to use this special opportunity to thank her for being beside me even at the most dangerous lethal threat I withstood.

Also I want to thank the United States for helping my wife, like millions of Ukrainians brought here by waves of emigration, to learn the values of freedom, and even still with Ukraine in her heart.

Many noble men and women on both sides of the Atlantic have always believed in Ukraine's democratic future. Our common belief came true in the days of the Orange Revolution. We highly appreciated the message sent by your country's leadership before the elections and during the Orange Revolution. It was clear and unambiguous. The U.S. condemned fraud and upheld Ukraine's right to freely elect their government.

This message enhanced our partnership and made it even stronger in the name of democracy. The Orange Revolution gave evidence that Ukraine is an advanced European nation, sharing the great values of the Euro-Atlantic civilization. A civil society has matured in Ukraine; its citizens stand ready to guard their rights and freedoms.

We Ukrainians are a diverse nation. We speak different languages, we practice different religions, and we have different political views. But we all recognize the right of each and every individual to determine his or her faith. This recognition underlines our unity and our strength.

In the days of Revolution, millions of people went out to the Maidan, and not a single act of violence, and I repeat, not a single act of violence was recorded there. Under orange banners, the people shared bread and warmth, not only with friends, but with their opponents as well. Armed with belief and convictions, the people overthrew a corrupt regime. The dirtiest election campaign in history ended with gracious victory and justice. Citizens of Ukraine bowed down to the authority of justice and have jointly assumed the responsibility for their own faith.

Ladies and gentlemen, today Ukraine is looking into the future with great hope and expectation. Free and fair elections have brought to state offices a new generation of politicians not encumbered with the mentality of the Soviet past. These are honest and professional patriots.

We are working as one team in pursuit of one goal, to lead our nation to success in the shortest time possible. We are shaping a new model of behavior of our government. It must safeguard the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens. We want a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The new power will not permit any administrative pressure upon the next year's parliamentary elections. Their

fairness and transparency will be secured. The people themselves will not allow it any other way.

The first indicator of change is the ever-growing independence of mass media. We have freed the press from pressures. There are no more secret instructions on what may and what may not be covered. The monopoly of media by two or three oligarchic clans will be halted. We are building a free society, committed to freedom of speech; and we stand ready to defend it.

For me, each case of a journalist's death is a challenge to democracy. We wish to discover the truth about all tragedies that have occurred in the past years. Important evidence in the investigation of Georgiy Gongadze's assassination case has already been obtained. Not only the perpetrators, but those who contracted this crime will be held responsible.

Everybody who was killing politicians and journalists will stand trial, everybody who led the country to the split-up. We have a political will to return Ukrainians faith and belief in justice.

Our top priority task is to secure independence of our judiciary. Our goal is to instill in Ukraine the rule of law. We are building a society where there will be no room for intolerance.

My father, Andre Yushchenko, was a prisoner of Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Dachau. As a child, I heard my father's stories about the hell of concentration camps.

I am a son of a nation that survived the most terrible tragedies of the 20th century, the Holodomor famine that took away 20 million lives of Ukrainians and the Holocaust. The 60th anniversary of the allied victory over Nazism once again calls upon us to fulfill our obligation to root out any expression of anti-Semitism and xenophobia, to secure minority rights and liberties.

I stand ready to fulfill this duty. All citizens of Ukraine, whether they be Ukrainians, Russians, Jewish or anybody else, will live in the society with open opportunities for everyone.

My oath is built on the reminiscences of the common prayer of hundreds of thousands of people in the Maidan. Christians, Jews, Muslims were praying in one prayer, everybody according to their rites, with everybody asking the Creator for one thing: freedom, fairness and blessing for Ukraine and for each of its citizens.

We are building an open economy that encourages innovation, rewards initiative, and assures high social standards. We are beginning an implacable war on corruption, promoting fair competition and forming transparent government-to-business relations. My goal is to place Ukraine in the forefront of prosperous democracies. My vision of the future is Ukraine in a United Europe.

We view accession to the European Union as an opportunity to realize the potential of our country. For us, a European future is a powerful incentive to

attain high political, social, and economic standards. We have observed the openness of European doors adding to our neighbors' confidence. It would be unfair to deprive Ukrainians of these opportunities, Ukrainians who so graciously proved their European identity, of this chance.

Ukraine wishes to guarantee security to its citizens, to live in peace and accord with all of its neighbors, whether in the East or in the West. It is only logical that we target our efforts towards the integration to NATO, the alliance that plays an essential role in securing peace and stability across the European continent.

I am convinced that the European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations of Ukraine will not be viewed as an additional hindrance. Ukraine's integration is not a problem, but rather a great new opportunity opening before our civilization.

Ukraine's accession to the European Union will put an end to the division of Europe and provide a new impetus to our civilization. Ukraine's accession to the alliance means a new level of stability across a strategically vital region, stretching from Warsaw to Tbilisi and to Baku.

It is quite natural for me to dwell upon new opportunities while standing at this podium. The United States, like no other country, has always built its policies on the premises of freedom, instead of merely seeking to retain a balance of power and interests. Since the times of President Wilson, this great idealism inspired Europeans, lending them strength and courage for historic changes.

President Reagan advocated these ideals of freedom when, in front of the Berlin Wall, he challenged President Gorbachev, "Tear down this wall, Mr. President."

President Bush realized these ideals when he upheld the unification of Germany. President Clinton reminded us of these ideals when he supported the accession into NATO of East European and Baltic countries.

I deeply believe that America is again ready for such historic decisions. I have no doubts that we will receive support for our efforts and our aspirations. We do not want any more walls dividing Europe, and I am certain that neither do you.

Dear friends, the goal of my visit to the U.S. is to establish a new era in Ukraine-U.S. relations. We do not seek only thaws that alter chillings in our relations. We seek a new atmosphere of trust, frankness and partnership. A new Ukraine offers the U.S. a genuinely strategic partnership.

My discussions with President Bush have made it clear that Ukraine is being understood and supported. The time has come to make real steps towards each other. Step one, dear friends, we want to bury the Cold War relics of the Senators and House Members. I am calling upon you to waive the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Please

make this step towards Ukraine. Please tear down this wall.

Step two, the new Ukrainian Government has on an unprecedented scale opened the Ukrainian market, dramatically reducing customs restrictions. In return, we expect the United States to cancel their restrictions that apply to Ukrainian goods within the U.S. market. I am calling upon you, ladies and gentlemen, please make this step.

Step three, the nonrecognition of a market-based economy status for Ukraine is an anachronism. Ukrainian producers are deprived of the rights enjoyed by their competitors. The time has come to restore fairness. Three days ago, Ukraine has officially requested the U.S. Government to grant market-based economy to Ukraine, and we are requesting that you make it happen by the fall.

Step four, by November of this year, Ukraine must become a WTO member. I would encourage you, in the nearest months, please support our WTO accession.

Step five, we invite the United States to during this year involve all political, financial, and technological resources to erect a new shelter over the destroyed reactor of Chernobyl power plant. I would ask the Congress to support virulent programs.

Step six, we want to see more Ukrainian students learning in U.S. universities over the next 5 years. I would encourage the Congress to finance such educational programs for Ukrainian students.

Step seven, Ukraine has agreed to waive visa regime for United States citizens. I would request the U.S. Government to, in the speediest possible manner, make a reciprocal step in relation to Ukrainian students, politicians, and business people.

Step eight, on behalf of Ukraine, I would ask you to include it in the list of participants of the Millennium Challenge program.

Following these priorities, we can make many others happen. For this, we have necessary possibilities in different areas. We welcome investments in the Ukraine's economy and are committed to creating a most favorable climate for the U.S. and all other international investors. It is in our own mutual interests to achieve as many success stories as possible of American enterprise in Ukraine.

The U.S. and Ukraine have common strategic interests, and we have unity in one thing. Everywhere possible we want to uphold freedom and democracy. We are committed to such a responsibility because we know if somebody is deprived of freedom, this freedom has been taken away from us.

Eleven years ago, my country voluntarily gave up the world's third largest nuclear arsenal. Ukraine made the world a safer place to live. Time has shown that this decision has not always met the kind of appreciation it deserved. Nevertheless, we remain

committed to jointly counter the threats posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missile and nuclear technologies.

Ukraine will be a reliable partner to the U.S. in fighting terrorism. I am sure we will be able to overcome it and not only by power of force. It is our obligation to eradicate the sources of terrorism. We can defeat the ideology of hatred that nourishes it. I am fully convinced that the time will come when in the dictionary of world languages, the term "terrorism" will be followed by the footnote, "archaic term." The same footnote, I am sure, will also accompany other shameful phenomena like racism, discrimination, and slavery.

We are witnessing the first successes of freedom in Iraq where Ukrainian soldiers are risking their lives shoulder to shoulder with their American counterparts. Ukraine is eager to continue its support to a democratically elected Iraqi Government in addressing its economic and security challenges.

The array of subjects for our dialogue is endless, but I would prefer to see the leading role played not by governmental, but by public diplomacy. Before my departure for the U.S., I received a letter from a group of respectable Ukrainian and American organizations proposing concrete and relevant subjects for expanding our dialogue. These initiatives I am sure are worthy of being supported.

Ladies and gentlemen, John Fitzgerald Kennedy took an oath before the whole world by saying, "We shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of liberty." I am subscribing to these words on behalf of Ukraine. This authority was given to me by my fellow countrymen who endured days and nights in bitter cold and snow on the Maidan. Ukraine is free and will always remain free. Citizens of Ukraine gained their freedom due to their courage and support of friends and proponents of democracy across the world.

In these days I want to recall one of them, Pope John Paul II, who said, "Following the path of truth is sometimes difficult, but never impossible."

We have embarked upon this road and will never step away from it. Together we are many, and together we are not defeated. God bless America. God protect Ukraine.

Thank you.

[Applause, Members rising.]

At 11 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m., His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, the President of Ukraine, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet; The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

#### JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 11 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will continue in recess until approximately 12:15 p.m.

□ 1215

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

#### PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute speeches per side.

#### DEERE-HITACHI CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY CORPORATION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the opportunity to visit Deere-Hitachi Construction Machinery Corporation in North Carolina's Fifth District. This plant manufactures hydraulic excavators which are used widely in the construction industry as earthmoving and utility-type tracked digging machines.

The company is a joint venture between John Deere and Hitachi Construction Machinery located in Tokyo, Japan. The company, formed in 1988, is a rare mix of American and Japanese cultures. This combination manifests itself in an extraordinary safety, quality, and delivery record.

As a result, Hitachi has grown significantly in the past 3 years. Production volumes of both John Deere and Hitachi-brand models have risen to over 6,000 units. This is remarkable given the machines are 12 to 33 tons in

operating weight. In addition, employment in the facility has doubled in size to over 750 direct employees.

A portion of this growth has been fueled by the localization of models that were formerly produced in Asia to Kernersville, North Carolina. This has had a positive impact on the local economy in North Carolina, as well as nationally. I am honored to have a facility such as Deere-Hitachi located in my district.

#### PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES IN SOCIAL SECURITY CONVERSATIONS

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President of the United States, in a speech at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, said with respect to Social Security, "There is no trust fund, just IOUs." On February 16, 2005, at a meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the President again made the claim that there is not a Social Security trust.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the people of this country have a right to know that the money that is put into that Social Security trust fund is safe; and the President, with his remarks, has put that in question and in doubt.

Two weeks ago, the Social Security Administration issued a report saying that all of the money there is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Do we no longer have faith in our country's financial obligations?

This is the time for Congress to step forward and back H. Resolution 170 that demands the President transmit information to the House backing up his claim that there is no trust fund.

#### THE MAN WHO WOULD NOT DIE

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on International Relations, I rise to express a word of humble welcome to one of freedom's men in the former Soviet Union, President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine, who addressed a joint session of Congress just moments ago.

Like the democracy's Orange Revolution that he personifies, President Yushchenko is the man who would not die. He survived the toxic machinations of those who see freedom as a threat. And those wicked men were right: freedom in the Ukraine and their brave President are a threat to every form of tyranny against the minds of men and women in that ancient land.

It is all together fitting that the capital of democracy on planet Earth welcomed one of its first 21st century heroes to these hallowed halls.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNC TAR HEELS

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, 4 weeks ago this coming Friday, in this very well, there was a group of young men that came from the Old Well in Chapel Hill to tour these hallowed halls of Congress. On Monday night, those young men won the National Basketball Championship, the University of North Carolina Tar Heels.

They came here and spent time with us and looked at this wonderful place and performed like champions Monday night. As a double graduate of the University of North Carolina myself, but more importantly I was there in St. Louis with my two sons who are currently students at UNC and who know several of the players, we want to extend from the halls of Congress our congratulations to the University of North Carolina Tar Heels and wish them Godspeed.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, Social Security has been a vital program for America's retirees for many years. Unfortunately, it is a system that was designed in 1935, not 2005.

I have a personal stake in Social Security. My parents are in their 70s. They depend upon Social Security as part of their retirement. But I am also the father of two small children, and I owe them no less retirement security tomorrow than my parents enjoy today.

Unfortunately, fewer workers, more retirees, and longer life spans will bankrupt Social Security. We must work together to save the system, which can be done without changing benefits or raising taxes on current and near retirees. Instead, we can give younger workers the opportunity to voluntarily invest some of their payroll taxes in personal retirement accounts that they can own, which will grow over time and which Washington cannot take away.

By allowing them to do this and build their own nest eggs, and by protecting the Social Security surpluses from being raided in Washington, we can keep the promise of Social Security for the next generation of Americans.

#### RAIDING OF SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President visited the Bureau of

Public Debt and promptly announced "There is no Social Security trust fund, just a bunch of IOUs stacked in an old filing cabinet."

Well, that may be an old filing cabinet to you, Mr. President; but to middle-class Americans that is their lifetime retirement savings. It may be filled with just IOUs to you, but when you borrowed \$700 billion from that trust fund, it was a very opportune filing cabinet because you stuck your hand in there and took \$700 billion from the Social Security trust fund to use. It was not an old filing cabinet. It was not just a bunch of IOUs.

Those are the taxes that Americans put away; the resources they put away for their life savings, and that is how every President and every Congress has treated it. It is the obligation of this Congress to strengthen Social Security, not to weaken it.

For middle-class Americans and for everybody who is saving for their retirement, it is high time we begin to strengthen Social Security by paying back the \$700 billion you have borrowed from it. And if you want to talk about IOUs, the IOUs we have run up, which is nearly \$2 trillion in debt that now Communist China and Japan own and are our bankers, that would be a good place to see where the IOUs are.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder that during my recent town hall meetings Georgians made their feelings on illegal immigration crystal clear. Look at the statistics. The illegal alien population in this country has now reached close to 11 million, and that is only what the government will admit. Georgia ranks in the top 10, with nearly one quarter million illegal aliens living in our State. This is not a problem we can simply ignore.

It is time to strengthen our border security and to enforce the law. Illegal aliens cost our society greatly. Our public education system and our health care system are choking. The costs are spiraling upward, and American taxpayers are paying the bills.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, allowing illegal aliens to stay here is a slap in the face to those who followed the law, waited in line, and entered this country legally. My constituents are right, and we must do more.

This year the House has passed the REAL ID Act, which is a great start, but it is only a start. I urge the Senate to adopt this act and all my colleagues

to join together to strengthen our immigration laws and their enforcement.

#### UNC NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, how fitting it is today that the skies are Carolina blue. We are still basking in the glory of the University of North Carolina's crowning as the 2004-2005 NCAA Division I Men's National Basketball Champions.

All season long, the Tar Heels were touted as the most talented players in the country, but some questioned whether the team could win it all. Monday night they proved any remaining doubters wrong. After playing 40 minutes of inspired basketball, the Tar Heels showed that they have the heart, the team spirit, and the determination of true champions.

North Carolina established itself long ago as one of the elite programs in college basketball history. But with their fourth national chairmanship win on Monday, the Tar Heels proved they are back among today's elite.

We hope and expect this year's run will be the first of many under native son Coach Roy Williams, who led the Tar Heels back to victory in just his second year back at his alma mater.

The victory was especially sweet for North Carolina's three seniors, who have helped lead an impressive comeback from their freshmen year challenges to the glory of their final game.

Three ACC schools, Mr. Speaker, are located entirely or partly in North Carolina's Fourth District, so I am no stranger to divided loyalties! But last night's victory is something all North Carolinians can feel proud of. That include this proud alumnus, and my staffers, who are still radiating Carolina blue, thanks to an inspirational team who has made us all proud. Go Heels!

#### ANSWERING CONSTITUENTS' CALLS TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, throughout the Second District of South Carolina, people are eager to discuss how to improve our Social Security System. After conducting over 20 town hall meetings with constituents of all ages about this issue, I am more convinced than ever we need to strengthen Social Security.

At the University of South Carolina and Claflin University, college students who are already paying into the system said they want the option of personal retirement accounts, which they can currently calculate at [www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org).

While senior citizens on Hilton Head Island understand that their benefits are secure, they are concerned their children and grandchildren will not receive the money they contribute. And baby boomers of Bluffton wish they had been offered the opportunity to participate in personal retirement accounts years ago.

Their opinions and suggestions reemphasize the urgent need for Congress to strengthen Social Security now, protecting persons over 55 in the system and providing retirement accounts for younger workers.

In conclusion, God protect Ukraine, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this year, the United States Government will collect \$170 billion more in social security taxes than it needs to pay current benefits. That is \$300,000 a minute from the working men and women and small businesses of America. And that money is being used to buy Treasury bonds. It is being put away under the premise that we are creating a trust fund. The full faith and credit of the United States Government backs those bonds.

Now, the President is questioning the full faith and credit, and he is saying there is no trust fund. Now, if the President is right and there is no trust fund, then we should stop taking \$170 billion from the working men and women under a false premise. That would be fraud.

We have to do either one of two things: lower the tax on working men and women in this country and small businesses, or honor the trust fund and the debt of the United States of America. I think there is only one choice, and that is to honor the debt of the country. But we have a President who is saying he might not.

Who is he going to pay first? The Chinese, the Japanese? Is he going to pay off his Treasury bonds first and then default on the savings of the working people of this country?

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, it is an outrageous and reckless statement of the President of the United States to make, and if the bond markets believed the President, there would be an economic catastrophe today.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on

which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

#### REALTIME INVESTOR PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1077) to improve the access of investors to regulatory records with respect to securities brokers, dealers, and investment advisers, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1077

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Realtime Investor Protection Act".

##### SEC. 2. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.

The constitutional authority on which this Act rests is the power of Congress to regulate commerce as enumerated in article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

##### SEC. 3. METHOD OF MAINTAINING BROKER/DEALER REGISTRATION, DISCIPLINARY, AND OTHER DATA.

Subsection (i) of section 15A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o-3(i)) is amended to read as follows:

"(i) OBLIGATION TO MAINTAIN REGISTRATION, DISCIPLINARY, AND OTHER DATA.—

"(1) MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES.—A registered securities association shall—

"(A) establish and maintain a system for collecting and retaining registration information;

"(B) establish and maintain a toll-free telephone listing, and a readily accessible electronic or other process, to receive and promptly respond to inquiries regarding—

"(i) registration information on its members and their associated persons; and

"(ii) registration information on the members and their associated persons of any registered national securities exchange that uses the system described in subparagraph (A) for the registration of its members and their associated persons; and

"(C) adopt rules governing the process for making inquiries and the type, scope, and presentation of information to be provided in response to such inquiries in consultation with any registered national securities exchange providing information pursuant to subparagraph (B)(ii).

"(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—Such an association may charge persons making inquiries, other than individual investors, reasonable fees for responses to such inquiries.

"(3) PROCESS FOR DISPUTED INFORMATION.—Such an association shall adopt rules establishing an administrative process for disputing the accuracy of information provided in response to inquiries under this subsection in consultation with any registered national securities exchange providing information pursuant to paragraph (1)(B)(ii).

"(4) LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.—Such an association, or exchange reporting information to such an association, shall not have any liability to any person for any actions taken or omitted in good faith under this subsection.

"(5) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'registration information' means the information reported in connection with the registration or licensing of brokers and dealers and their associated persons, including disciplinary actions, regulatory, judicial, and arbitration proceedings,

and other information required by law, or exchange or association rule, and the source and status of such information.”

**SEC. 4. FILING DEPOSITORIES FOR INVESTMENT ADVISERS.**

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 204 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-4) is amended—

(1) by striking “Every investment” and inserting the following:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Every investment”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **FILING DEPOSITORIES.**—The Commission may, by rule, require an investment adviser—

“(1) to file with the Commission any fee, application, report, or notice required to be filed by this title or the rules issued under this title through any entity designated by the Commission for that purpose; and

“(2) to pay the reasonable costs associated with such filing and the establishment and maintenance of the systems required by subsection (c).

“(c) **ACCESS TO DISCIPLINARY AND OTHER INFORMATION.**—

“(1) **MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES.**—The Commission shall require the entity designated by the Commission under subsection (b)(1) to establish and maintain a toll-free telephone listing, or a readily accessible electronic or other process, to receive and promptly respond to inquiries regarding information (including disciplinary actions, regulatory, judicial, and arbitration proceedings, and other information required by law or rule to be reported) involving investment advisers and persons associated with investment advisers. Such information shall include information on an investment adviser (and the persons associated with that adviser) whether the investment adviser is registered with the Commission under section 203 or regulated solely by a State as described in section 203A.

“(2) **RECOVERY OF COSTS.**—An entity designated by the Commission under subsection (b)(1) may charge persons making inquiries, other than individual investors, reasonable fees for responses to inquiries made under paragraph (1).

“(3) **LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.**—An entity designated by the Commission under subsection (b)(1) shall not have any liability to any person for any actions taken or omitted in good faith under this subsection.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 203A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-3a) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (d); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(2) Section 306 of the National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 80b-10, note; Public Law 104-290; 110 Stat. 3439) is repealed.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this legislation.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1077 was introduced by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG). It is a noncontroversial bill that will extend the ability of American investors to access information about security dealers.

In 1990, Congress ordered that the National Association of Securities Dealers make this information available to all investors through a toll-free number. Unfortunately, the authorization was not broad enough to extend to Internet access.

H.R. 1077 corrects this problem while maintaining toll-free telephone access to dealer information for those who prefer not to use the Internet. I urge Members to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1077, the Realtime Investor Protection Act. This legislation will make it faster and easier for investors to obtain information about the brokers with whom they entrust their savings and retirement funds.

Since 1990, the NASD has been required to provide investors with registration information on individual brokers by toll-free telephone call or in writing. The system has provided valuable information on a broker's disciplinary history, including customer complaints, that an investor can use in selecting a broker.

While that system has worked well, the NASD would like to be able to provide this information directly to investors over the Internet where the information will be more accessible to investors and can be provided in a manner that will make it easier for investors to understand and compare among brokers.

Of the over 2.5 million plus inquiries the NASD received last year, approximately 96 percent were through the Internet, and less than 4 percent were by telephone. Because of the narrow language of the existing statute, however, NASD has not been able to put disclosure information online. Rather, investors must request and wait for a written disclosure report to be mailed or e-mailed to them.

Under the bill, the NASD would be required to make the information it maintains on brokers available to investors over the Internet, as well as by toll-free telephone call. The NASD would be held harmless for information disclosed or withheld in good faith through the expanded system, just as it is under the current statute for information provided over the telephone or in writing.

Additionally, the bill would require the NASD to establish an administrative process to address disputes over the accuracy of information, ensuring procedural fairness and an opportunity for a broker to correct errors or dispute information provided by a securi-

ties firm to the NASD. The bill also authorizes the Securities and Exchange Commission to designate the NASD to provide investor access to registration information concerning investment advisers, providing investors with another potentially valuable source of information when shopping for a financial professional.

Mr. Speaker, given the extent to which consumers have come to rely on the Internet for the information they need in making financial decisions, it is clearly time to make this information more accessible to investors. I urge support for H.R. 1077.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHAD-EGG), the author of the bill.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1077, the Realtime Investor Protection Act.

As has already been indicated, this legislation will require the National Association of Securities Dealers to make its databases of complaints against broker-dealers publicly available on a secure Internet site and is relatively straightforward.

Let me explain, however, this is indeed a serious problem. I personally know of individuals whose entire wealth has been wiped out by fraud which could have been detected had these investors taken the time to research the broker-dealer they were dealing with in an appropriate manner.

As has been explained, the current law requires the NASD to maintain BrokerCheck. BrokerCheck is a system through which investors can research their broker-dealer before entrusting with them their hard-earned savings. But in light of Congress' increased focus on retirement security, I believe we should encourage Americans to, in fact, take advantage of BrokerCheck, and even go beyond that and to conduct their own research before making any investment decision.

BrokerCheck, as has been indicated by my colleague on the other side, provides these individuals with this information through a free check that can be accessed either over the Internet or by telephone. But because it is accessed over the Internet and by telephone, and requires that an inquiry be submitted and then a response prepared and that response sent back, the delay in getting this information can be anywhere between 10 minutes and as much as 2 days. This legislation goes at that problem and allows instantaneous access to this kind of information.

Through the current system and through the enhanced system this legislation will authorize, BrokerCheck will gather and make available online on an instantaneous basis, and an investor can discover, whether or not their broker has a criminal record, has been subjected to a regulatory action by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and whether or not their



broker has had consumer complaints filed against them.

While the current system is a good idea, as I indicated, it has not kept pace with technology. Today investors can only access the information by placing a request through the NASD's toll-free phone number or Website, and then must wait for a response. This legislation will update the system by requiring the NASD to make this information available through a secure Website on the Internet so investors can search for this information instantaneously.

NASD statistics bear out the need to utilize the Internet for this purpose. Let me give just a few statistics. Over 4.4 million requests for information were submitted to the BrokerCheck program in 2004, and 99 percent of these were submitted on the Internet through e-mail. Only 1 percent were by telephone. Clearly investors have figured out that the Internet is the proper mechanism for submitting this kind of inquiry and checking out their broker-dealer before they invest. But by having it require now a response from the NASD, rather than having the check be instantaneous, we are exposing investors to that 10-minute to 2-day delay during which they cannot access this information.

By making information accessible online, as H.R. 1077 does, it will be easier for individuals to research their broker-dealer and provide themselves with the information they need before they make an investment decision. I hope my colleagues share my interest in encouraging individuals to become more informed investors, and I urge a yes vote by all of my colleagues on the Realtime Investor Protection Act.

I appreciate the comments of the gentleman on the other side in support of the legislation, the comments of the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), and the support of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Real-time Investor Protection Act and would like to commend my good friend from Arizona, Mr. SHADEGG, for his excellent work on this important legislation.

Informed investors are critical to our Nation's markets. Ready access to complete information about securities firms and brokers is critical to informing investors and building investor confidence. NASD, the self-regulatory organization for broker-dealers, has been providing this information to the public since 1990 when Congress mandated that NASD make relevant portions of the information available to the public without charge through a toll-free telephone number.

At the time, the telephone was the easiest and most convenient solution. However, investors today have embraced the Internet as their preferred means of obtaining information. Therefore NASD seeks to use the Internet to disseminate this information. Investors want and need online access to disclosure of information to assist them in deciding whether to do business with a securities firm or broker.

When Congress mandated that NASD release this information, it accorded NASD im-

munity from liability for the release of such information to the public—recognizing that the disclosure of key information about securities firms and brokers is a critical part of NASD's regulatory and investor protection mission.

I would like to clarify that under prevailing Federal case law there is no private right of action against NASD for acts or omissions taken pursuant to its regulatory responsibilities under the Federal securities laws. I want to be clear that this legislation is not intended to change existing law pertaining to private rights of action under those laws. In addition, courts have historically granted NASD absolute immunity for its regulatory actions. This legislation is not intended to limit NASD's immunity for regulatory actions.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan investor protection bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1077, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### INCREASED CAPITAL ACCESS FOR GROWING BUSINESS ACT

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 436) to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide incentives for small business investment, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 436

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Increased Capital Access for Growing Business Act".

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.

(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PORTFOLIO COMPANY.—Section 2(a)(46)(C) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a)(46)(C)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) it does not have any class of equity securities listed for trading on a national securities exchange or traded through the facilities of a national securities association as described in Section 15A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;”;

(2) by striking “or” at the end of clause (iii);

(3) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v); and

(4) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clause:

“(iv) the aggregate value of its outstanding publicly traded equity securities is not more than \$250,000,000, except that the Commission may adjust such amounts by rule, regulation, or order to reflect changes in one or more generally accepted indices or other indicators for small business, consistent with the public interest, the protection of inves-

tors, and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of this title; or”.

(b) ASSETS OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES.—Section 55(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-55(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “securities with respect to which a member of a national securities exchange, broker, or dealer may extend or maintain credit to or for a customer pursuant to rules or regulations adopted by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System under Section 7 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934” and inserting the following: “equity securities listed for trading on a national securities exchange or traded through the facilities of a national securities association as described in Section 15A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934”; and

(2) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (A), by inserting “or” after the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (B), and by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) from the issuer of such securities, which issuer is described in section 2(a)(46)(A) and (B) but is not an eligible portfolio company because the aggregate value of its outstanding publicly traded equity securities is more than \$250,000,000 but not more than \$500,000,000, if such securities represent not more than 10 percent of the total assets of the business development company invested in securities described in paragraphs (1) through (6) of this section;”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker very much for allowing me to bring this important legislation to the floor for consideration today. I also thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for working with me on this important issue that will help small businesses.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and the Congress must ensure that they have every opportunity to succeed. It is crucial that small businesses have sufficient access to capital in order to create jobs and ensure a strong and growing economy.

Today the legislation before us, the Increased Capital Access For Growing Business Act, will ensure that small businesses have better access to capital by modernizing outdated security laws.

In 1980, Congress created business development companies to encourage investments in small, developing and financially troubled businesses known as “eligible portfolio companies.” BDCs



are publicly traded investment companies that invest in both public and private companies and generate an injection of capital for businesses. BDCs have provided significant benefits to the economy, including the opportunity for the public to invest in small, developing companies while also supplying much-needed financing.

The legislation we are considering today makes important changes to the securities laws that ensure the viability of BDCs and expands the businesses these entities are able to assist. In 1980, BDCs were able to invest in approximately 66 percent of the 12,000 publicly held operating companies. Since that time, however, the Federal Reserve has amended its margin rules on several occasions, resulting in a clear decrease in the number of eligible portfolio companies.

In order to correct these unintended consequences, this legislation amends the definition of an eligible portfolio company to enable the BDCs to have a greater flexibility in selecting appropriate investments. To accomplish this goal, the legislation permits BDCs to provide capital to a larger number of companies by increasing the size of companies that BDCs can invest in to reflect changes in the market since the creation of the act.

The legislation also includes specific authority for the Securities and Exchange Commission to modify dollar thresholds in the future. This would enable the SEC to review these thresholds on a regular basis and consider changes that are in the interest of the companies trying to access capital and shareholders of BDCs. Small and developing businesses should be able to devote their energies towards their customers growing their business, and not worrying about their access to capital.

As BDCs are able to provide financing to additional small and medium-sized businesses, the economy will experience greater growth and much more job creation.

I also would like to commend the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), for recognizing the importance and urgency of this legislation and agreeing to move it quickly.

□ 1245

This is a no-cost commonsense piece of legislation that will help small businesses and increase capital formation. That is a good, healthy economic structure for all. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation for investors and small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 436, the Increased Capital Access For Growing Businesses Act. I want to

commend the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) for bringing this matter to the committee's attention, as well as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for their support in expediting the consideration of this measure. With this legislation, we have an excellent opportunity to help more small businesses access capital so that they can expand and grow their businesses.

Business development companies, or BDCs, are unique investment companies authorized by the 1980 amendments to the Investment Company Act. They are publicly traded companies that invest primarily in smaller companies. Since 1980, BDCs have proven to be a valuable and effective source of funding for small companies, allowing growing companies access to both capital and managerial expertise.

In 1980 when BDCs were first authorized by Congress, about two-thirds of all publicly held companies were eligible for BDC investment. While the securities and financial services industries evolved during the 1990s, neither Congress nor the SEC acted to keep the BDC statute current. As a result, the number of public companies in which BDCs could invest has been reduced drastically, effectively eliminating the option of BDC investment for many small public companies.

It is important to understand that just because a firm has gone public does not mean that it can access the financing necessary for growing and expanding. Many small companies that went public in the late 1990s, for instance, found themselves unable to access the public markets for additional capital after the market bubble burst. These smaller, illiquid company stocks could benefit greatly from financing offered by BDCs. Instead, an out-of-date regulatory structure severely restricts such investments by BDCs.

The current standard for eligibility, whether or not a company has outstanding marginable securities, has proven unworkable as it is tied to a standard that is no longer relevant. H.R. 3170 creates a more workable standard to enable BDCs to provide financing to companies as originally intended by the 1980 amendments. The legislation provides an objective standard, based on a market capitalization test, to modernize the definition of eligible portfolio companies.

H.R. 3170 modernizes United States security laws to reflect changes in the marketplace. Small and growing companies are often widely regarded as engines of economic growth and job creation. Allowing BDCs to invest in more companies in need of capital will provide more opportunities, more jobs, and contribute to the economic expansion. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation critical for small businesses and the entire United States economy. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 436.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 436, the Increased Capital Access for Growing Business Act. This bill creates an improved regulatory environment for small business, the undisputed engine of our economy.

A quarter of a century ago, Congress created business development companies to encourage investments in small businesses. Unrelated rules promulgated by regulators since that time have had the unintended consequence of limiting the investment opportunities of business development companies.

This bill will restore the true intent of Congress by modernizing the securities laws governing these companies. Small businesses will once again have the important capital access provided by business development companies. This is crucial as small businesses must have efficient access to capital to create jobs and promote economic growth.

I would like to commend my good friend and subcommittee chair, Mrs. KELLY of New York, for her fine work in crafting this bill. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important bipartisan legislation for investors and small businesses.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) for his kind words about this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 436.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MORTGAGE SERVICING CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1025) to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to exempt mortgage servicers from certain requirements of the Act with respect to federally related mortgage loans secured by a first lien, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1025

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act".

#### SEC. 2. MORTGAGE SERVICING CLARIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 818 as section 819; and

(2) by inserting after section 817 the following new section:

#### "§ 818. Mortgage servicer exemption

"(a) EXEMPTION.—A covered mortgage servicer who, whether by assignment, sale or

transfer, becomes the person responsible for servicing federally related mortgage loans secured by first liens that include loans that were in default at the time such person became responsible for the servicing of such federally related mortgage loans shall be exempt from the requirements of section 807(11) in connection with the collection of any debt arising from such defaulted federally related mortgage loans.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

“(1) COVERED MORTGAGE SERVICER.—The term ‘covered mortgage servicer’ means any servicer of federally related mortgage loans secured by first liens—

“(A) who is also a debt collector; and

“(B) for whom the collection of delinquent debts is incidental to the servicer’s primary function of servicing current federally related mortgage loans.

“(2) FEDERALLY RELATED MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term ‘federally related mortgage loan’ has the meaning given to such term in section 3(1) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974, except that, for purposes of this section, such term includes only loans secured by first liens.

“(3) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ has the meaning given to such term in section 3(5) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974.

“(4) SERVICER; SERVICING.—The terms ‘servicer’ and ‘servicing’ have the meanings given to such terms in section 6(i) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the item relating to section 818 as section 819; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 817 the following new item:

“818. Mortgage servicer exemption.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material in the RECORD on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 1025. This is the Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act, which I have introduced with my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI). This carefully written legislation addresses a specific problem for consumers and businesses involved in the mortgage servicing industry by simply clarifying the existing law governing mortgage servicing. This non-controversial bill enjoys strong bipartisan support. It has been approved for consideration under the suspension of the rules by both the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this bill to fix a problem in the mortgage servicing industry which has hampered the abili-

ties of this industry to serve its clients effectively and to conduct its business efficiently for far too long.

Currently, when a mortgage servicing company acquires the rights to service a portfolio of home loans, it is exempt from the unnecessary strictures of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act under the creditor exemption that was also extended to the originator of the mortgage. The new mortgage servicer is extended this exemption because its relationship to the borrower is more like a relationship between a borrower and a lender than like the relationship between a borrower and a true debt collection agency.

The law already recognizes this reality. However, in the typical loan servicing portfolio transfer, a small percentage of the loans acquired by a new servicer will inevitably be delinquent or technically in default at the time of transfer. The law currently treats these loans as being subject to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and subsequently the new servicers of these loans are required to provide certain form notices, known as Miranda warnings, to the borrower.

The law also currently requires that in every subsequent contact, both written and oral, whether initiated by the servicer or the borrower, the servicer is required to provide a shorter mini-Miranda notice disclosing that the communication is an attempt to collect a debt and that any information provided by the borrower will be used toward that end. The purpose of these cookie-cutter warnings is to prevent unscrupulous debt collectors from using false or misleading tactics, such as a phony winning sweepstakes claim or other such tactics, to trick consumers into divulging private financial information or personal details like their home address or their phone number.

The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act has worked extremely well in preventing bad actors in the debt collections business from using lies and deceit to harm consumers, and this legislation would in no way prevent it from continuing to protect American consumers.

However, as I have already mentioned, mortgage servicers are not like debt collectors. Their role to consumers is much more like that of a mortgage originator; and in the context of the mortgage servicing transfer, these Miranda notices are both detrimental to consumers and unnecessary and inefficient for mortgage servicers’ operations.

First, the notice misleads the borrower about the nature of the relationship between him or herself and the new servicer. Unlike true debt collectors, mortgage servicers have a long-term relationship with their client, and these harshly worded notices often have the effect of discouraging a borrower who was slightly late on a mortgage payment from contacting their new servicer for fear that the servicer is a true third-party debt collector. This ends up frustrating the servicer’s

efforts to work with delinquent borrowers on developing strategies to bring their loans current and keep their credit ratings intact.

A mortgage servicer’s biggest hurdle in helping delinquent borrowers to help themselves is getting them on the phone, and these threatening Miranda notices only contribute to that unnecessary fear without doing anything to help the borrower. Additionally, the information protected by the Miranda notices is information already in the servicer’s possession. So nothing new is truly protected by requiring these additional legalistic and threatening notices be provided. Additionally, these warnings simply make consumers feel unnecessarily defensive and antagonistic toward their new servicer during the first step of their new association, which can have a chilling effect on the rest of their relationship.

Mortgage servicers typically send these Miranda notices along with a new customer’s welcome letter as required by the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, and this letter also includes important consumer information about the new servicer and the borrower’s monthly payment arrangements. This preliminary contact is the first opportunity that a servicer has to create a positive relationship with a new client, and the harsh language used in the Miranda warning can create animosity toward the servicer where none need exist.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, because the mini-Miranda is required in all subsequent contacts, they can continue for decades, even after customers bring their loans current and keep them that way for years. This bill will resolve that problem.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1025, the Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act. I would like to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) for his leadership on this bill. My thanks also go to the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), who has worked in a very strong bipartisan way to bring this bill to the floor. I commend him for that. I also want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), and the other cosponsors of the bill from both sides of the aisle for their support and help with bringing this bill before the House.

The bill before us is largely technical in nature and seeks to address a change in market practices not anticipated by the original Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, or FDCPA. The bill addresses a conflict between the disclosure requirements of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, or RESPA, and

the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, FDCPA. This conflict only applies to a limited number of companies that act as both mortgage servicers and collectors of mortgage-related debt.

Section 6 of RESPA requires that any entity that is assigned or acquires servicing rights to a mortgage must notify the borrower of the transfer of mortgage servicing. The new entity must identify itself as the new loan servicer and disclose to borrowers that they have the right to dispute or obtain additional information about the terms of the debt being transferred.

Section 807, part 11 of FDCPA requires that any person seeking to collect a debt must identify themselves in any initial communication as a debt collector, identify the debt to be collected, and notify the debtor of their right to validate the debt and other protections provided by FDCPA. Since mortgage servicers often acquire servicing rights for entire portfolios of loans, a number of loans are likely to be in default at the time of transfer. Subsequent efforts by the acquiring servicer to collect on the defaulted debts have at times been thwarted on technical grounds with claims that the collection effort violated FDCPA. This is so because the initial communication received by the debtor was the notice of servicing transfer rather than the required notice of debtor rights.

The compromise that was negotiated 3 years ago to address this problem and which the House has previously passed under suspension would create a narrow exemption from the requirement to provide a notice of debtor rights under the FDCPA for a mortgage service who acquires responsibility for servicing a mortgage by assignment, sale, or transfer.

□ 1300

Under this exemption, a mortgage servicer could not be held liable for not providing a notice of debtor right for any loan that is actually in default at the time of the transfer of servicing rights. This means that the exemption is narrowly drawn so as to affect a very small number of mortgages.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fine bill. I urge support for H.R. 1025.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to commend the gentleman from California, who must feel like it is Ground Hog Day because he has actually been out here two prior times on this bill. In the 107th Congress, it passed by voice vote. In the 108th Congress, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) was here, and his bill passed 424 to nothing, and yet it died in the other body, not because there was opposition, but it simply got

caught up in the paperwork. I want to commend him on his persistence.

And he is doing this because without this bill, when a mortgage is transferred or assigned or bought, there are always a few people who are not only in default, but even those who are just simply delinquent, behind on a payment, and it misleads those people into believing that they are receiving a call from a debt collector who has to make Miranda-like warnings, and when they do that, they have a tendency not to talk to them.

And, in fact, and I will read a letter from some of our Democratic colleagues who are also cosponsoring this bill, in fact, the very thing that we would want these people to do is talk to their new mortgage servicer and establish a relationship to work out of that default and to work out of that delinquency, because there are actually rules that these servicers are supposed to make every attempt to establish such a relationship; yet the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, it was not meant to be. This was an unforeseen technicality in the interpretation.

So the FTC came to the Congress and enlisted the help of the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) to remedy this. Let me read the letter because I think it says it very well. It was drafted by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI), who has worked tirelessly on this bill for the last two Congresses. It has a signature of the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS). These are all Democrats and all members of the Committee on Financial Services.

They said this about the present state of the law and the need for the gentleman from California's (Mr. ROYCE) legislation: One, the present Miranda notice misleads borrowers about the nature of the new servicer's relationship. The most important thing a delinquent mortgage borrower can do is call his or her servicer to work out options. The harshly worded warnings actually discourage borrowers from doing just that, from contacting the new servicer out of fear that the company is simply another debt collector. Two, the notice protects borrowers from providing information that the mortgage servicer already has in its possession. Mortgage servicers already possess detailed information about the borrower in the loan files. Third, the notice hurts customer relationships for the remaining term of the mortgage. The mini-Miranda warning is required in all subsequent contacts with the borrower even after the customer has brought their loan current and maintained them for years. In other words, under the present state of the law, these customers are treated for years to come as if they are delinquent or in default, and that is an insulting thing when they have brought their mortgages up to speed.

In closing, I will summarize the entire bill this way: In today's market, Mr. Speaker, mortgages are transferred, they are assigned, they are bought. And when that happens, those customers have a right to know whether they are dealing with a debt collector or they are dealing with their mortgage service provider, and that is a big difference. And this law will actually allow that to happen.

So I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI), and I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) particularly for his diligence in this matter, and I would ask the Members of this body to do what the last two Congresses have done, and that is unanimously approve this legislation, which is truly bipartisan and ought to be a model for this Congress as it works to do what is best for our citizens without regard to political party.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama for his comments and in conclusion just say the way in which H.R. 1025 resolves the problem that we have discussed is that it creates a narrow exemption for Miranda notices for the services of federally related first lien mortgages whose primary function is servicing current loans, not collecting third-party debts. It exempts these servicers only from the Miranda notices, leaving in place all other substantive borrower protections required by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

This legislation is consistent with the long-standing recommendations from the Federal Trade Commission to improve the mortgage servicing process, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan legislation to improve the mortgage servicing process for both the consumer and companies who serve them.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1025, the "Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act," providing a narrow but necessary exemption for mortgage servicers from certain requirements of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) with respect to federally related mortgage loans secured by a first lien.

I want to commend Congressman ROYCE and Congressman KANJORSKI for introducing this legislation, as well as Ranking Member FRANK for helping to guide this important measure through the legislative process. This legislation passed by a voice vote in the 107th Congress and passed last Congress on a vote of 424-0.

When a mortgage servicer acquires the right to service a loan portfolio, the servicer is generally exempt from complying with the FDCPA because the Act extends the creditor's exemption to the new servicer. The problem arises because in a typical loan servicing transfer, a percentage of the loans transferred are delinquent or in default. These loans are technically covered by FDCPA provisions requiring the new mortgage servicer to include harshly

worded notices to its borrowers identifying the servicer as a "debt collector" and warning the borrower that any information he or she discloses to the servicer will be used in the debt collection process. These notices are commonly referred to as "Miranda notices," and they can have the unintended consequences of discouraging borrowers from contacting their new service provider.

Under the exemption made by H.R. 1025, a mortgage servicer would not be required to provide a Miranda notice upon the first contact with its new customer, as well as in all subsequent contacts, on those loans that were in default at the time of transfer. However, mortgage services would not qualify for this exemption with respect to other loans that may go into default after the transfer occurs.

Let me close by saying that this bill is drafted to be consistent with previous recommendations by the Federal Trade Commission, the agency charged with the enforcement of the FDCPA, and is supported by a variety of financial services trade groups, including the Consumer Mortgage Coalition, American Financial Services Association, and Mortgage Bankers Association.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, as the leading Democratic supporter of H.R. 1025, I rise today in strong support of the Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act. It is a good piece of legislation that will fix a technical problem under existing law.

Under the current Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, when a mortgage servicer acquires the rights to service a loan portfolio it is generally exempt from complying with the law's requirements because the act extends the creditor's exemption to the new servicer. In a typical loan servicing transfer, however, a certain percentage of loans will be delinquent or in default at the time of the transfer. These loans are therefore technically covered by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, even though the new servicer has a fundamentally different relationship with the borrower than a true debt collector.

H.R. 1025 would resolve this problem by establishing a very narrow exemption for servicers of first lien mortgages from the notice requirements of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. All other substantive borrower protections provided by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act would remain in full force. Additionally, the exemption is available only to servicers that are primarily engaged servicing current loans.

We worked for several years to narrow the exemption created by this bill in order to address the concerns of all interested parties. The legislation also passed the House in the 107th Congress and the 108th Congress, and when we last passed this bill it was approved by a vote of 424 to 0. I expect that we will again today pass this bill in the 109th Congress with similar bipartisan support.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the provisions of H.R. 1025 are consistent with longstanding recommendations by the Federal Trade Commission, under the Clinton and Bush Administrations, to improve the application of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to mortgage servicing activities. I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense, technical-fix legislation.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1025, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 797) to amend the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and other Acts to improve housing programs for Indians.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 797

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) there exist—

(A) a unique relationship between the Government of the United States and the governments of Indian tribes; and

(B) a unique Federal trust responsibility to Indian people;

(2) Native Americans experience some of the worst housing conditions in the country, with—

(A) 32.6 percent of Native homes being overcrowded;

(B) 33 percent lacking adequate solid waste management systems;

(C) 8 percent lacking a safe indoor water supply; and

(D) approximately 90,000 Native families who are homeless or underhoused;

(3) the poverty rate for Native Americans is twice that of the rest of the population of the United States;

(4) the population growth of Native Americans that began in the latter part of the 20th century increased the need for Federal housing services;

(5)(A) under the requirements of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.), members of Indian tribes are given preference for housing programs;

(B) a primary purpose of the Act is to allow Indian tribes to leverage funds with other Federal and private funds;

(C) the Department of Agriculture has been a significant funding source for housing for Indian tribes; and

(D) to allow assistance provided under the Act and assistance provided by the Secretary of Agriculture under other law to be combined to meet the severe housing needs of Indian tribes, the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) should be amended to allow for the preference referred to in subparagraph (A) by granting an exemption from title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) to tribes who comply with the Indian Civil Rights Act (title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968; 25 U.S.C. 1301-1303), or who are acting under the

Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4131(b)); and

(6) section 457 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12899f) should be amended to include Indian tribes, tribally designated housing entities, or other agencies that primarily serve Indians as eligible applicants for YouthBuild grants.

#### SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF PROGRAM INCOME.

Section 104(a)(2) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4114(a)(2)) is amended by inserting "restrict access to or" after "not".

#### SEC. 4. CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE.

Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "SEC. 544. INDIAN TRIBES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Federally recognized Indian Tribes who exercise powers of self-government (or their instrumentalities) shall comply with the Indian Civil Rights Act (title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968; 25 U.S.C. 1301-1303) when receiving assistance under this title.

"(b) EXEMPTION.—Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) shall not apply to—

"(1) tribes covered by the Indian Civil Rights Act (title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968; 25 U.S.C. 1301-1303); or

"(2) tribes acting under section 201(b) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4131(b))."

#### SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY OF INDIAN TRIBES FOR YOUTHBUILD GRANTS.

Section 457(2) of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12899f(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

"(G) an Indian tribe, tribally designated housing entity (as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)), or other agency primarily serving Indians; and"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have on the floor today H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005, which I introduced this year with the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

While visiting with my Navaho and Apache constituents, I have learned

that there is a need for a real focus on long-term housing planning. If we can help tribes be flexible with their grant money, we can see great projects such as Apache Dawn, a multiphased construction development by the White Mountain Apaches that was built because they were able to be flexible and creative with their funding.

This bill makes three changes that will help Native American communities in rural Arizona and other Native American communities throughout America better address their housing needs. The first section of this bill will clarify that tribes are allowed unrestricted access to new NAHASDA funds even if they still retain program income from previous years. Currently the tribe's grant money may be restricted if that tribe is receiving program income in excess of their operating costs. This clarification is critical to ensure that we are not creating a disincentive for tribes to create housing plans for their future developments.

Second, this bill also brings USDA housing programs in line with HUD programs in allowing Indian preference which lets tribes abide by the Indian Civil Rights Act. Currently tribal governments may not exercise Indian preference for USDA programs because it would be considered a civil rights violation for giving preference based upon racial designation. Indian preference is something tribal governments value greatly in addressing the needs of their citizens. It is not a race issue. Indian preference recognizes the political designation of tribes as sovereign entities with whom we have entered into a government-to-government relationship. This amendment will help ensure greater tribal usage of USDA rural development programs.

Because another program that tribes use for their youth program existed when NAHASDA was enacted, Youthbuild, accessibility was taken away. Not only are tribes prohibited from applying for Youthbuild funds, but organizations serving Native youths are prohibited as well; yet the statistics are overwhelming. Mr. Speaker, the suicide rate for Native American youth is three times the national average. Alcohol-related deaths among Native Americans ages 15 to 24 are 17 times higher than the national average. American Native youth ages 12 to 20 are 58 percent more likely to become crime victims than any other race of the same age span. And as of February 2001, 74 percent of youth in custody in the Federal Bureau of Prisons System were Native American youths, an increase of 50 percent since 1994. Native American youth represent 1 percent of the U.S. population, yet constitute as much as 3 percent of the youth arrests for larceny, thefts and liquor law violations. These grim statistics speak to the importance of programs that teach life skills and give a sense of community to children in Indian Country.

Current tragic events make clear the need to allow our children, our Native American children, to participate in a program that builds stronger neighborhoods, safe homes, more self-esteem, and make a difference for their future. I ask support for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH), who is a true leader on all Native American issues, and I know she has great concern on housing issues as well.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) for yielding me time to voice my support for the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005, and I would like to thank the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), with whom I have the pleasure of serving on the Committee on Resources, for introducing this important legislation.

As my colleagues have indicated, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005 will ensure that Congress's intent is carried out with respect to tribal access to new NAHASDA funds. The gentleman from Arizona made the compelling point that the act will also create a more appropriate civil rights standard for tribal governments administering USDA housing programs and will give tribes access to an important housing and youth services program known as Youthbuild.

In my conversations with tribal leaders and tribal housing officials from across the State of South Dakota, the message is consistent. There is a desperate need for more housing in Indian Country. This is because historically there has been inadequate funding provided for housing programs. For instance, on the Pine Ridge Reservation, home to the Oglala Sioux Tribe in southwest South Dakota, current NAHASDA funding levels are insufficient to allow them to address their very acute housing needs. In Pine Ridge it is not uncommon to have 25 individuals or more living in one housing unit.

I hear similar concerns from other tribes, from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in the north to the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate in eastern South Dakota, and please bear in mind that these reservations are located in an area of the country where temperatures can reach 25 below or colder in the wintertime.

□ 1315

Adequate housing on South Dakota's reservations is truly a matter of life and death.

This legislation is a meaningful step in the right direction. It would allow tribes unrestricted access to new NAHASDA funds, even if they still maintain program income from previous years. This will ensure that trib-

al governments are not punished for developing successful income-generating housing stock.

This legislation is a top priority of the United Native American Housing Association, a regional group that represents 32 housing programs in the HUD Northern Plains Region, including all of South Dakota. It also is similar to legislation introduced in the Senate this year by my colleague TIM JOHNSON.

Of course, there is much more to be done. Congress should acknowledge and live up to the treaty obligations that we have with tribes across the country and respect the sovereignty of tribal governments. One way to do this is by responding to the substantial housing needs on our reservations by funding NAHASDA at a level that will allow tribal members to live with dignity in safe, sanitary housing.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the passage of this legislation emphasizes the current housing needs in Indian Country and resonates with my colleagues. It is a step in the right direction, but we can and we must do more.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), who is a member of the Chickawa Tribe. The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) is a true fighter and advocate for those in Indian Country across our Nation.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I would be in trouble if I did not say Chickasaw Tribe.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005. I commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) for bringing such an important piece of legislation before the House for consideration.

This bill allows tribes to maximize funding resources provided through the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996. It also reinforces tribal sovereignty by allowing tribes to focus certain Federal housing funding solely on tribal members. Finally, it will reinstate tribal access to Federal funding for youth programs.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), has been a tireless champion for the Native American community, whether reinforcing tribal sovereignty, encouraging economic diversification, increasing educational opportunities, or improving the quality of life for Native Americans. I commend the gentleman from Arizona for his leadership in advancing the causes of the Native American community and urge support for the passage of the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we are considering this bill today on the House floor. I do commend the leadership of the Committee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr.

OXLEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), and the leadership of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS). They exhibit bipartisanship in an effort to get legislation done that is important, and that is why we are here today.

I certainly thank my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI). The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and I share the privilege and honor of representing the Navajo Nation. I can tell you the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) has been a tireless advocate for Navajo issues and Native American issues in general, and I value the relationship I have had with him working on those issues.

This bill, H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act, is an important bill in making a few simple changes to current law that will improve Native American access to housing.

Last year, and quite frankly, this was at the instigation of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), there was a field hearing that took place on the Navajo Reservation; and the Committee on Financial Services sponsored this field hearing, which I believe is the first housing field hearing ever to take place on the reservation.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), along with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), and I toured parts of the reservation before the hearing, heard from many witnesses from a number of tribes, and we learned a lot during that hearing. We saw some startling things, and we learned a lot that needs to be addressed.

We learned the poverty rate for Native Americans is twice that of the rest of the U.S. population; that many Native Americans continued to live in appalling housing conditions, even as those in much of the Nation have improved, and we saw some of those conditions when we toured the reservation.

American Indians and Alaskan native populations live in housing that is often and justifiably compared to third-world nations. One out of every five Indian homes lacks complete plumbing facilities. Over 90,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives are homeless or underhoused. So I am so pleased that as a result of the subcommittee hearing out on the reservation and the testimony we heard that the bipartisan work of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and of others that we are bringing to the floor today can help address at least some of these issues.

This bill will not address all of the challenges associated with Native American housing, but it will provide progress on the issue. It takes a positive step by stretching existing resources and creating flexibility in the delivery of housing for Native Americans.

Specifically, the bill will amend the current law to explicitly direct the Department of Housing and Urban Development to allow tribes unrestricted access to new Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act funds, even if they still retain program income funds from previous years. You have heard that described by a couple of speakers before me.

This is so important, because sometimes when investments get made in new housing, there is a rental stream or income that comes off of that housing; and if the law is interpreted in a way we do not want to have happen, it prevents new funds from coming in to move ahead with additional housing programs. This act today addresses that problem so we can continue to make progress.

The bill will also amend the Housing Act of 1949 and will bring USDA housing programs into line with HUD Indian housing programs in allowing Indian preference.

Finally, of course, the bill will reinstate Indian access to YouthBuild grants. The grants are part of a Housing and Urban Development Department program that provides job training and academic assistance to low-income young people. Ensuring that tribes are eligible to create for YouthBuild grants will fill a void in access to funding for youth programs in Indian Country.

So as I said, this bill does take some important steps forward in addressing the housing needs of Native Americans. Beyond that, there are two other lessons I think we can learn from this bill, and I think a lot of people in Congress might want to pay attention to this.

The first is, I think, we worked the way we are supposed to work. We heard from constituents, we went and conducted a field hearing, we listened to a lot of tribes from around this country. We took that information back through the leadership of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

We have now formed legislation to address some of the problems that were appropriately brought to our attention during the hearing process, and this legislation is before us today. If it passes, as I am confident it will, hopefully it will move in the other body as we will and we will make some progress on an issue. That is why we are elected in this body, is to make progress on issues.

The second lesson is the relationship that the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) has exhibited in working with folks on the other side of the aisle. It is a valuable bipartisan relationship. It is the way you get things done around here.

So I commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) on his leadership on this issue, and I thank my colleagues for bringing the bill to the floor. I certainly encourage this bill's adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the gentleman from Utah for his advocacy and particularly for the leadership he showed during the hearing out in Navajo Country.

In closing, I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY), who has been a tireless advocate on Native American housing issues, who represents a tough district with a lot of rural needs, and who understands and has articulated the message that is now getting out across the country, the need to help so many of our first citizens, the Native Americans of our Nation.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have on the House floor today H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act which I introduced earlier this year with my colleague Mr. MATHESON of Utah.

While visiting with my Navajo and Apache constituents, I have learned that there is a need for a focus on long term housing planning. If we can help tribes be flexible with their grant money we will see great projects such as Apache Dawn, a multi-phase construction development by the White Mountain Apache that was built because they were able to be flexible and creative with their funding.

This bill makes three changes to help Native American communities in rural Arizona, and across the nation, better address their housing needs.

The first section of this bill will clarify that tribes are allowed unrestricted access to new NAHASDA funds even if they still retain program income from previous years.

Currently a tribes' grant money may be restricted if that tribe is receiving program income in excess of their operating costs.

This clarification is crucial to ensure that we are not creating a disincentive for tribes to create income or plan for their future developments.

This bill also brings USDA housing programs into line with HUD programs in allowing Indian preference which lets tribes abide by the Indian Civil Rights Act.

Currently, tribal governments may not exercise Indian preference for USDA programs because it would be considered a Civil Rights violation for giving preference based on a racial designation.

Indian preference is something tribal governments value greatly in addressing the needs of their citizens—it is not a race issue. Indian preference recognizes the political designation of tribes as sovereign entities with whom we have entered into a government to government relationship.

This amendment will help to ensure greater tribal usage of USDA Rural Development programs.

Because another program that tribes used for their youth programs existed when NAHASDA was enacted, YouthBuild accessibility was taken away.

Not only are tribes prohibited from applying for Youthbuild funds, but organizations serving Native youth are prohibited as well, yet the statistics are overwhelming:

The suicide rate for Native youth is three times the national average. Alcohol related deaths among Native Americans ages 15–24 are 17 times higher than the national average.



Native youth ages 12–20 are 58 percent more likely to become crime victims than any other race of the same ages.

As of February 2001, 74 percent of youth in custody in the Federal Bureau of Prisons system were Native American youth, an increase of 50 percent since 1994.

Native American youth represent 1 percent of the U.S. population, yet they constitute 2 percent to 3 percent of the youth arrested for offenses such as larceny-theft and liquor law violations.

These grim statistics speak to the importance of programs that teach life skills and give a sense of community to children in Indian Country. Current tragic events make clear the need to allow these children to participate in a program that will build stronger neighborhoods, more self-esteem and make a difference for their future.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this matter and I urge your support of this bill.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005 and want to commend the sponsor of the legislation, the gentleman from Arizona, RICK RENZI, for his tireless work and continued dedication to improving the housing conditions for Native Americans in this country.

Native Americans are three times more likely to live in overcrowded housing, and are more likely than other Americans to lack sewage and water systems, telephone lines and electricity, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Nearly 12 percent of Native Americans lack complete plumbing, compared with 1.2 percent of the general population. Native Americans have the highest poverty rates at 26 percent and have the highest unemployment rate in the country at nearly 14 percent.

Last year, in May, this Committee held the first Indian Housing Congressional hearing in Tuba City, Arizona in Indian country. At that hearing, members were able to witness first hand the substandard conditions experienced by Native Americans and learned of the many barriers to housing development on reservations.

After that hearing, this Committee took action and enacted H.R. 4471, the Homeownership Opportunities for Native Americans Act of 2004 to provide more chances to provide quality housing for Native Americans. That legislation restored the government repayment under the Title VI Loan Guarantee Program from 80 percent to 95 percent in case of default. The bill we are considering today represents another installment in this Committee's commitment to addressing the many housing needs facing Native Americans. The legislation we are considering today, H.R. 797, represents another small step toward improving housing for Native Americans in this country.

First, it requires federally recognized, self-governing Indian Tribes (whose self-governing status would otherwise make them exempt) to comply with the Indian Civil Rights Act—title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968—if they receive financial assistance from the Agriculture Department for farm housing. Under current law, the department can provide loans to farm owners to improve housing conditions for themselves or their workers. The Indian Civil Rights Act prohibits tribes from making laws that restrict freedom of religion, speech or the press. It also sets other requirements pertaining to fair due process for people who are arrested.

The measure also exempts tribes currently in compliance with the Indian Civil Rights Act and tribes acting under other federal affordable housing programs from compliance with certain sections relating to fair housing under other civil rights laws, which overlap with provisions in the Indian Civil Rights Act.

The bill makes Indian tribes or their housing entities eligible for Youthbuild grants. The grants are part of a Housing and Urban Development Department program that provides job training and academic assistance to low-income young people.

Finally, the measure clarifies that the Interior Department cannot restrict access to or reduce funds going to tribes receiving block grants under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (PL 104–330).

While this legislation does not make monumental changes, it makes changes that will help stretch the housing resources available to Native Americans. I urge my colleagues to support.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005. I would like to thank my colleague and friend, Cong. RICK RENZI from Arizona, for his hard work to bring this legislation to the floor. His commitment to improving the housing conditions in Indian Country is an example we should all follow.

Native Americans today are experiencing chronic housing affordability problems. Over 32.5 percent of the homes located on tribal lands are overcrowded and less than 50 percent of homes in Indian Country are connected to public sewer systems. Approximately 40 percent of tribal homes are considered substandard compared to a national average of six percent.

Last May, the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a field hearing in Tuba City, Arizona on the state of housing in Indian Country. The hearing was the first time the Housing Subcommittee held a hearing on tribal lands. At this hearing, members were able to witness first hand the substandard conditions experienced by Native Americans. It gave members the opportunity to learn of the many barriers to housing development on reservations.

After that hearing, the Financial Services Committee took action and passed H.R. 4471, which restored the government repayment under the Title VI Loan Guarantee Program from 80 percent to 95 percent in case of default. The bill we are considering today represents another installment in this Committee's commitment to addressing the many housing needs facing Native Americans.

H.R. 797 requires federally recognized, self-governing Indian Tribes (whose self-governing status would otherwise make them exempt) to comply with the Indian Civil Rights Act—title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968—if they receive financial assistance from the Agriculture Department for farm housing. Under current law, the department can provide loans to farm owners to improve housing conditions for themselves or their workers. The Indian Civil Rights Act prohibits tribes from making laws that restrict freedom of religion, speech or the press. It also sets other requirements pertaining to fair due process for people who are arrested.

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and tribes acting under other federal affordable housing programs from compliance with certain sections relating to fair housing under other civil rights laws, which overlap with provisions in the Indian Civil Rights Act.

The bill makes Indian tribes or their housing entities eligible for Youthbuild grants. The grants are part of a Housing and Urban Development Department program that provides job training and academic assistance to low-income young people.

Finally, the measure clarifies that the Interior Department cannot restrict access to or reduce funds going to tribes receiving block grants under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (PL 104–330).

Development programs delivered to Indian Country should be highly flexible and adaptive to the very unique and specific circumstance in each tribal setting. Native Americans must be able to take full advantage of partnering and leveraging efforts across institutions and at all levels of government.

While today's legislation does not make monumental changes, it will help stretch the housing resources available to Native Americans. If we begin to succeed at these initiatives, then opportunities will move into these rural areas. As we work to help strengthen opportunities in Indian Country, together we will all continue to play a significant role in improving the quality of life for all families.

I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 797.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 148) supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 148

Whereas the financial services industry in the United States benefits millions of people in the United States, providing products and services that allow individuals and families to build homes, buy cars, finance educations, start businesses, and meet everyday needs;

Whereas personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens, yet a study completed in 2004 by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 7 years earlier;

Whereas financial education has been linked to lower delinquency rates for mortgage borrowers, higher participation and contribution rates in retirement plans, improved spending and saving habits, higher net worth, and positive knowledge, attitude, and behavior changes, yet a 2004 survey completed by the National Council on Economic Education found that the number of States that include personal finance in education standards for students in kindergarten through high school has improved since 2002 but still falls below 2000 levels;

Whereas expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth and is likely to lead to increased economic activity and growth, yet studies show that as many as 10 million households in the United States are "unbanked" or are without access to mainstream bank products and services;

Whereas personal financial management skills and lifelong habits develop during childhood, and 55 percent of college students acquire their first credit card during their first year in college, and 92 percent of college students acquire at least one credit card by their second year in college, yet only 26 percent of people between the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their parents actively taught them how to manage money;

Whereas although more than 42,000,000 people in the United States participate in qualified cash or deferred arrangements described in section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (commonly referred to as "401(k) plans"), a Retirement Confidence Survey conducted in 2004 found that only 42 percent of workers surveyed have calculated how much money they will need to save for retirement and 4 in 10 workers say that they are not currently saving for retirement;

Whereas personal savings as a percentage of personal income decreased from 7.5 percent in the early 1980s to 1.1 percent in the last two quarters of 2004;

Whereas Congress sought to implement a national strategy for coordination of Federal financial literacy efforts through the establishment of the Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC) in 2003, the designation of the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury to provide support for the Commission, and requirements that the Commission's materials, website, toll-free hotline, and national multimedia campaign be multilingual;

Whereas Members of the United States House of Representatives established the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus (FELC) in February 2005 to (1) provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to work in collaboration with the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, (2) highlight public and private sector best practices, and (3) organize and promote financial literacy legislation, seminars and events, such as "Financial Literacy Month" in April 2005 and the annual "Financial Literacy Day" fair on April 27, 2005; and

Whereas the National Council on Economic Education, its State Councils and Centers for Economic Education, the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, its State affiliates, and its partner organizations have designated April as "Financial Literacy Month" to educate the public about the need for increased financial literacy for youth and adults in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit

organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 148.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to call up House Resolution 148 for consideration. This valuable resolution supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, and its purpose is to increase awareness of the significance of well-planned personal financial management. I strongly support this goal, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it can be overwhelming for Americans of any age to establish and manage income, savings, and credit. But learning simple financial principles can help protect against illness or disability, long-term losses of unemployment, and other aspects of life that most of us will experience at one time or another.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution cites that over the last 20 years, personal savings have decreased from about 7.5 percent of personal income during the 1980s to only 1.1 percent in the last two quarters of 2004. This, I am afraid, shows the dangerous reality that unfortunately Americans are relying too much on credit and many are spending beyond their means.

Most Americans and their families will experience lean financial times sometime during their lives. That is why the message of this resolution is so important and why we need to encourage schools to teach our young people the principles of personal finance at early ages.

Life is uncertain, and jobs change. Family circumstances and macroeconomic instability can affect every one of us. But we as a Nation can be confident that we will ultimately enjoy big returns on our investments in financial literacy.

Mr. Speaker, several important groups, including the National Center on Economic Education, the JumpStart Coalition For Personal Financial Literacy and their partner organizations consider April to be Financial Literacy Month. Consistent with this designa-

tion, today I am pleased to join with my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), to sponsor this legislation in supporting financial literacy. I urge all Members to vote in favor of the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, financial literacy may be more important today than during any other time in our Nation's history. That is why I am pleased to support H. Res. 148, introduced by the gentlewoman from the Great State of Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), which supports the goals of Financial Literacy Month for Youth.

As the resolution notes, a study by the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that 92 percent of college students have at least one credit card by their sophomore year. This fact becomes alarming when you consider that the same study found that only 26 percent of people between the ages of 13 and 21 claimed that they had been taught how to manage their money by their parents. This resolution serves as an important wake-up call for all of us: the administration, Congress, and the American taxpayer.

As the economy begins to rebound from an arduous period, now is an opportune time to teach all Americans, young and old, about fiscal responsibility. The JumpStart Coalition's aim is to identify personal finance materials for educating our youth. To that end, they have established 12 must-know personal finance principles for young people if they want to improve their financial future.

The 12 financial principles stressed during Financial Literacy Month for youth are, one, map your financial future; do not expect something for nothing; high returns equal high risk; know your take-home pay; compare interest rates; pay yourself first; money doubles by the rule of 72, which is a way of determining how long it takes your money to double while in the bank; your credit past is your credit future; start saving young; stay insured; budget your money; and do not borrow what you cannot repay.

These important, but basic, principles are of value to all of us. But let me add one more, since the 15th is not too far away: pay your taxes, and on time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to endorse this resolution supporting the goals of Financial Literacy for Youth Month and urge all of my colleagues to support it as well. As a matter of fact, my mother used to tell us that if you take care of your nickels, then your quarters will take care of themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for his support for this important resolution, and I thank him for his wit and wisdom.

Madam Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), the author of this resolution.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding me time and for cosponsoring this resolution and for his advocacy for financial literacy.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 148, which my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), and I introduced for a second year to designate April as Financial Literacy Month. We did this once again to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States and the serious consequences that come when young people, adults, and older Americans lack basic understanding of personal finance and economics.

□ 1330

Madam Speaker, ours is a compelling case, and I know that many Members of the House who cosponsored this resolution agree that our country is in a financial literacy deficit. The most recent statistics indicate that most of our States do not require schools to have financial literacy programs, and 7 out of 10 of our children and grandchildren failed a basic financial literacy exam.

The numbers look equally bad for young and older adults. Studies show that almost all of our Nation's college students have a credit card by the second year of college, but only about a quarter report that their parents actively taught them how to manage money. The number of bankruptcies remains at a historic high. Over 1.6 million bankruptcy cases were filed in 2004.

And we all know Social Security will soon reach a juncture, and now is the time for us to encourage our children and young and older adults to embrace learning about finance and economics and engage in good budget and long-term savings habits.

Abraham Lincoln, one of our most beloved Presidents and fellow Illinoisan, once said, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today," and I agree. We should help our citizens avoid getting caught in a credit quagmire, stay out of bankruptcy court, and steer clear of a financially unsound retirement. I believe that we need to encourage all Americans to take ownership over their finances, to be financially astute, and establish financial security now. Now is the time.

I pledge to continue to promote financial and economic education, and I know that I am joined by an army of supporters here on the Hill and across the country. In recent years, the Con-

gress, Federal agencies, State and local governments, schools, the private sector, not-for-profit and for-profit groups have worked hard and made incremental strides toward improving the financial aptitude of Americans of all ages and walks of life. However, there is so much more that we can and must do to turn the tide.

Many States have implemented outstanding financial literacy programs for children. In my home State of Illinois, State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka created the Bank At School program which helps children learn the fundamentals of money management through the operation of an in-school bank. Schools are partnering with financial institutions which conduct a monthly Bank Day at the school where students open savings accounts and make regular deposits.

I believe that programs like this will provide the guidance that is desperately needed; but we do need to do more. We need to coordinate our programs. We need to improve America's financial report card, and we need to encourage financially sound behavior.

In Congress we catapulted the Financial Literacy Movement into action when we passed the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act. This act established the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, which has made great strides since its first meeting in 2004. They have established a Website, [mymoney.gov](http://mymoney.gov), and are in the process of developing a national strategy.

While the Commission's work to date has been commendable, some of us in Congress thought that we ought to do more. That is why in February, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and I formed the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. The caucus currently has 45 Members with 23 Republicans, 21 Democrats, and 1 Independent. We all agree that financial literacy is a national priority, and our goal is to bring together interested parties and participants at the national, State, and local levels to establish best practices and to promote financial and economic literacy on Capitol Hill, at home in our districts and, eventually, around the world.

We are forming an ambitious agenda for the weeks and months to come. On April 27 we will host our first Financial Literacy Fair in the House Cannon Caucus Room. I would encourage everyone to attend the fair. Our caucus also aims to establish a Website, provide a focal point in working with the Senate and executive branch, including the Commission, and showcase all of the great programs that have been launched in the business, education, and not-for-profit communities.

Today I encourage all Members of the House to join the caucus and work with us to educate Americans about finance and economics.

Madam Speaker, the state of financial literacy among our citizens may not garner much in the way of head-

lines, but it is an issue nonetheless that should command our attention. While it is a problem that is serious and urgent, it is one that can be solved through education. That is why I urge my colleagues to support this resolution in support of financial literacy. It is our duty to help our citizens of all ages and walks of life to succeed in today's increasingly sophisticated world of finance.

I want to thank my distinguished colleague and friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), for his strong support and sponsorship of this resolution. I would also like to thank the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), for being a cosponsor of this resolution and moving it through his committee. I would especially like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), also members of the Committee on Government Reform, for managing this resolution. I would also like to thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) for her support of the resolution and dedication to this initiative.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of the Members who cosponsored this resolution for their support.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), the cosponsor of this resolution.

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 148 that the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and I introduced earlier this year. The legislation supports the ideals and the goals of Financial Literacy Month, which falls in April of each year.

Before I proceed, I want to take this opportunity to thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service, and especially my Ranking Member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY DAVIS). Also, I would like to recognize and thank Tania Shand on the minority staff for helping expedite committee consideration of our bill. My distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), has always been a strong supporter of economic education and financial literacy, and I want to thank him for managing the bill today for our side of the aisle.

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and I have also worked closely on financial literacy issues with the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of the House Committee on Rules. I think all of us owe him a great deal of gratitude for being one of the first Members of Congress to call for bringing attention to the need to improve financial literacy rates.

To celebrate Financial Literacy Month, a Financial Literacy Day Fair will be held April 27 from noon to 4 p.m. in the Cannon Caucus Room. I join my friend, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), in encouraging all of our colleagues and their staffs to attend this event.

Every day, consumers deal with money, from balancing a checking account to shopping for a mortgage or auto loan, researching ways to pay for a college education, checking credit card statements, saving money for retirement, understanding a credit report, or simply deciding whether to pay cash or charge a purchase. The list goes on and on, but many consumers do not really understand their finances.

In 2004, reports from JumpStart and the National Council on Economic Education, the Schwab Foundation and others indicated that almost 66 percent of high school students failed a basic financial literacy exam. The numbers are not much better for adults. High bankruptcy rates, increased credit card debt, and identity theft make it imperative that all of us take an active role in providing financial and economic education during all stages of one's life.

On February 15, 2005, I cofounded, and currently cochair, the Congressional Hispanic and Economic Literacy Caucus with the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT). The caucus seeks to address these issues head on by increasing public awareness of poor financial literacy rates, and will work to improve those rates. The caucus will provide a forum for my colleagues to promote policies that advance financial literacy and economic education. It is my hope that through the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, we can further educate Americans about financial and economic topics ranging from homeownership to credit ratings and, yes, insurance.

At this point, Madam Speaker, I will insert for the RECORD letters and press releases supporting passage of this resolution. They include a press release from the National Association of Mortgage Brokers and a letter of support from Merrill Lynch. I would also insert letters supporting the creation of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus be included in the RECORD. They include a statement by Treasury Deputy Assistant Secretary Dan Iannicola, a release by the National Council on Economic Education, a letter of support from Junior Achievement, a press release from the Investment Company Institute, a statement from the North American Securities Administrators Association, and a statement by the Savings Coalition of America, and I have them all included here.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MORTGAGE BROKERS APPLAUDS RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL "FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH"

McLEAN, VA—The National Association of Mortgage Brokers (NAMB) supports the bipartisan resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives today designating April as "Financial Literacy Month."

"We commend Reps. Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX) for introducing a resolution that calls for the federal government, states, local governments, schools, businesses and other groups to observe Financial Literacy Month," said NAMB President Bob Armbruster. "Financial education is important for today's consumers who face a complex array of financial products and services."

NAMB works closely with the financial services industry as part of its on-going commitment to consumer education. NAMB has a long history of promoting consumer financial education. Last year, for example, NAMB initiated a pilot consumer credit education program using Freddie Mac's CreditSmart® and CreditSmart® Español financial literacy curricula. The pilot is currently being managed by NAMB state affiliates in California, Florida and Texas.

NAMB also has partnered with United Guaranty to create a consumer information presentation—"Are You Prepared to Head Down the Road to Homeownership?"—to help educate minorities, immigrants and low-to-moderate income households on the home-buying process. The presentation covers common home mortgage terminology, important steps in the home-buying process, fair housing laws, credit reports and more.

"For consumers, financial education is essential to protecting oneself against fraud or abusive financial practices and this education process should begin at a young age, with some targeted curriculum in our high schools," adds Armbruster. "The more consumers know, the better they are at managing their finances."

For more information visit NAMB's consumer home page on the NAMB Web site, [www.namb.org](http://www.namb.org).

MERRILL LYNCH,  
Washington, DC, April 5, 2005.

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HINOJOSA: Merrill Lynch strongly supports the formation of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus and applauds the efforts of Representative Judy Biggert and yourself in addressing this important issue.

Merrill Lynch has long shared the Caucus' goal of improving financial literacy for all Americans at all stages of life. The Merrill Lynch Investing Pays Off® (IPO) curriculum has been specially developed as a tool for volunteers, parents and educators and is designed to be an enjoyable program that will bring to life important concepts and information that all young people need to know. The curriculum has been designed in three stages for ages spanning 7 to 18.

Merrill Lynch has also launched a financial education program for Girl Scouts in the Greater New York area. Girl Scouts in the region will use the IPO curriculum during troop meetings and educational programs to develop their entrepreneurial skills and increase their financial knowledge.

The Merrill Lynch IPO program partnered with Sesame Workshop in using Sesame Street character Elmo to bring financial education to children ages 3 to 6 and their parents, through an interactive website and an activity book in English and Spanish.

Merrill Lynch strongly supports your efforts to increase public awareness of poor literacy rates across the country and work toward improving those rates

Sincerely,

BRUCE E. THOMPSON, Jr.,  
First Vice President.

STATEMENT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL EDUCATION DAN IANNICOLA, JR. ON THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC LITERACY CAUCUS

This Department of Treasury press release may be viewed at: <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2254.htm>

Today's formation of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus is an important step in the federal effort to promote personal economic security through financial education. I commend Representatives Judy Biggert and Ruben Hinojosa for their efforts to provide Americans with the education resources they need to achieve their financial goals. I look forward to partnering with the caucus to advance Treasury's commitment to ensuring that Americans learn more about their finances and, in so doing, live better lives.

NCEE APPLAUDS LAUNCH OF "FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC LITERACY CAUCUS"

The National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) is offering its full support for the newly formed House "Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus." On Tuesday, February 15, Representatives Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX) announced the formation of this bipartisan congressional organization. The Caucus will help organize legislative efforts and policy initiatives related to financial literacy and economic education. Membership is open to all Members of the House of Representatives.

"Representatives Biggert and Hinojosa are to be commended for bringing energy, focus and commitment to this effort," said Robert Duvall, President and CEO of the NCEE. "Their action could not be more timely. By providing a dedicated forum for economic and financial education policy, the Caucus will help both to direct and to magnify the tremendous congressional interest and energy in these critical issues."

I encourage all House Members to join this important organization, and become actively involved in its vital mission," Duvall stated, for the NCEE.

Both Representatives Biggert and Hinojosa will be featured speakers at the 2005 National Summit on Economic and Financial Literacy, convened and conducted by the NCEE, which will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2005 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

#### ABOUT THE NCEE

The NCEE ([www.ncee.net](http://www.ncee.net)) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving economic literacy. Through its unique nationwide network of state Councils and more than 200 university based Centers for Economic Education, NCEE's programs reach more than 150,000 K-12 teachers and over 15 million students in more than 70,000 schools each year. The NCEE was also recently designated by the U.S. Department of Education as the leadership organization to implement the \$1.5 million Excellence in Economic Education program through the No Child Left Behind legislation. Through the Cooperative Education Exchange Program (CEEP), the distinctive programs of the National Council on Economic Education are also reaching over 10 million students in 26 countries, including Indonesia, Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and other developing market economies.

#### JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT,

Colorado Springs, CO, February 15, 2005.

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA,  
Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HINOJOSA: On behalf of Junior Achievement's 1,400 associates and 110,000 classroom volunteers nationwide, congratulations on your latest effort to promote financial literacy and economic education.

The establishment of a Financial & Economic Literacy Caucus reinforces the importance of a financially literate society. With personal bankruptcies and debt continuing to soar, I urge the caucus to consider a focus on youth. According to the latest JA Poll on Personal Finance, nearly 70 percent of teens nationwide say they influence their parents' buying decisions, while nearly 25 percent of 18-year olds say they already own and use their own credit cards. The earlier we can intervene with an education on the "economics of life," the better off we'll be.

As the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to promoting economic education and financial literacy, JA stands ready to assist the caucus in advancing its goals.

Thank you for your resolve in championing this important issue. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

DAVID S. CHERNOW,  
President and CEO, JA Worldwide.

#### ICI LAUDS FORMATION OF THE FINANCIAL LITERACY CAUCUS WASHINGTON, DC

February 15, 2005.—The Investment Company Institute today announced its support for the creation of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus under the bipartisan leadership of caucus Co-Chairs, Congressmen Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX).

The caucus will host educational forums and such events as "Financial Literacy Month." It will also act as focal point for communicating with various public and private agencies and groups.

"Mutual funds are many Americans' introduction to investing," said ICI President Paul Schott Stevens. "The earlier they understand the importance of investing to pay for educating their children and funding their retirement, the more effective their planning will be. We are pleased to support the Caucus' mission of promoting financial literacy."

Providing America's 92 million mutual fund investors with the tools they need to develop goals, evaluate risk, and make informed investment decisions is a long-standing mission of the Institute and its mutual fund members, Stevens said.

The Institute supports financial education through its Investor Awareness series of public messages and publications and through the work of its Education Foundation. Since 2000, the Foundation's primary focus has been the Investing for Success program.

In partnership with the National Urban League and the Hispanic College Fund, the program promotes the benefits of long-term investing within the African-American and Hispanic communities.

Reps. Biggert and Hinojosa are both members of the House Committee on Financial Services and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which has jurisdiction over pensions. They also share long histories of promoting financial literacy through their legislative actions.

#### NASAA COMMENDS LAUNCH OF CONGRESSIONAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC LITERACY CAUCUS

WASHINGTON, February 16, 2005.—The following is a statement from North American Securities Administrators Association President and New Jersey Board of Securities Chief Franklin L. Widmann on the formation of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. Organized in 1919, NASAA is the oldest international organization devoted to investor protection. NASAA's membership consists of securities administrators in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico.

"NASAA commends Representatives Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX) for their leadership in forming the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. Providing a forum for Members of Congress to promote policies advancing financial literacy and economic education is an important step to ensuring that our citizens have the tools necessary to build financial knowledge and financial security.

"State securities regulators share your concern about the deficit level of financial literacy in this country and the impact it has on personal financial decision-making. And we also share a common dedication and commitment to doing something about it.

"We stand ready to assist the Caucus and serve as a resource, as you move forward in developing and implementing programs to improve the level of financial literacy in this country."

Madam Speaker, financial literacy means empowerment, power to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, and leaders. It means banking the unbanked and bringing them into the mainstream financial system to protect them from abusive predatory or deceptive credit offers and financial products.

Numerous programs exist to improve financial literacy: The NCEE's Financial Fitness For Life program; Jump\$tart's Personal Finance Education Standards and Benchmarks are used by educators and parents; Junior Achievement's programs and surveys; ICI's Investing for Success program; the FDIC's free, multilingual Money Smart adult financial literacy curriculum; the FTC's I.D. theft What's It All About program; as well as CFA's America Saves program; VISA's Practical Money Skills For Life program; AICPA's 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy program; the Girl Scouts of America's Money Smarts program; the CHCI NHI's homeownership workshops; Lincoln Financial's financial planning programs; the ABA Education Foundation's Take Control of Our Personal Finances program; ACB's Money Rules program; the North American State Securities Association's program.

Madam Speaker, the list goes on and on. It includes Fannie Mae's homeownership program in English and Spanish; Operation Hope's Banking on Our Future program; and Freddie Mac's CreditSmart Espanol program.

At present, several of these financial literacy programs are operating in my congressional district, Texas 15. The Security Industry Association's Stock Market Game is one such program. I am proud that my district was chosen again this year to participate in SIA's second annual Capitol Hill Challenge stock market program. This year I selected La Feria High School, located in Cameron County, Texas, to participate in this program. They have been competing against 15 other districts from across our country. I wish them well. Please know I will be rooting for my team.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs.

BIGGERT), and her legislative assistant Nicole Austin, for working with me on today's legislation.

In closing, I want to say that I look forward to continuing to collaborate with her on any and all efforts that will help increase public awareness of the need to improve financial literacy, to promote programs that increase financial literacy for all during all stages of life, and to significantly improve the financial literacy rates across this great country. It is never too late to take control of your personal finances, and it is something that all of us in the United States can start today.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, Madam Speaker.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers on our side. I would just simply close by suggesting that my father used to tell us that money is like life. The better you manage it, the longer you are likely to keep it.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I would only close by saying that financial literacy clearly is an idea whose time has come. I thank the authors for bringing it forward. I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 148.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am here today to supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. I want to thank my colleagues Congresswoman BIGGERT and Congressman HINOJOSA for introducing such a valuable piece of legislation.

The financial services industry in the United States benefits millions of people in the United States, providing products and services that allow individuals and families to build homes, buy cars, finance educations, start businesses, and meet everyday needs. Personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens, yet a study completed in 2004 by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 7 years earlier.

Financial education has been linked to lower delinquency rates for mortgage borrowers, higher participation and contribution rates in retirement plans, improved spending and saving habits, higher net worth, and positive knowledge, attitude, and behavior changes, yet a 2004 survey completed by the National Council on Economic Education found that the number of States that include personal finance in education standards for students in kindergarten through high school has improved since 2002 but still falls below 2000 levels.

Expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth and is likely to lead to increased economic activity and growth, yet studies show that as many as 10 million

households in the United States are 'unbanked' or are without access to mainstream bank products and services. Personal financial management skills and lifelong habits develop during childhood, and 55 percent of college students acquire their first credit card during their first year in college, and 92 percent of college students acquire at least one credit card by their second year in college, yet only 26 percent of people between the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their parents actively taught them how to manage money.

Although more than 42,000,000 people in the United States participate in qualified cash or deferred arrangements described in section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (commonly referred to as '401(k) plans'), a Retirement Confidence Survey conducted in 2004 found that only 42 percent of workers surveyed have calculated how much money they will need to save for retirement and 4 in 10 workers say that they are not currently saving for retirement. It is unfortunate that personal savings as a percentage of personal income decreased from 7.5 percent in the early 1980s to 1.1 percent in the last two quarters of 2004.

Congress has sought to implement a national strategy for coordination of Federal financial literacy efforts through the establishment of the Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC) in 2003, the designation of the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury to provide support for the Commission, and requirements that the Commission's materials, Web site, toll-free hotline, and national multimedia campaign be multilingual.

I am glad to be here today to support the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month; and join my colleagues in requesting that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the Gentlelady from Illinois, Mrs. BIGGERT, and the Gentleman from Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, for introducing this important resolution. As a member of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, I am proud to rise in support of this measure.

Over 40 years ago, fewer than 2 in 10 families owned stocks. Today, this figure has risen dramatically, with more than 50 percent of Americans owning assets dependent on the stock market. We've come a long way. But I believe we can still do more to provide greater opportunities for all Americans to become part of the Investor Class.

One method is to reach out directly to our local communities. In my own district, I am sponsoring a team of students from Bonita High School (La Verne) to participate in the Securities Industry Association's (SIA) stock market game. This program provides teachers with an engaging real-world tool for teaching basic economic skills while instilling in their students an understanding of the importance of sound saving and investing. As students track their team's portfolio, they are able to commit the skills they learn in school to real-world financial decisions.

It is also important to note that efforts to enhance financial literacy should not just be confined to our own country. As we strive for ex-

panded trade and investment with our global partners, the financial ups and downs in world markets have a greater impact on our local economies. Helping to spread financial and economic literacy to emerging markets is critically important to establishing stability in developing nations. For example, in 2004 Citigroup and the Citigroup Foundation provided more than \$22 million in support of financial education programs in activities that reached millions of people in more than 40 countries. These activities included community development projects to support the expansion of thrift and credit-based cooperative groups in India and the development of a microfinance industry in China.

Financial literacy is more than just crunching numbers. It is about empowerment and opportunity. It is about making your money work for you, whether it is buying a first home, paying for college, or planning for retirement. That is why we must do everything we possibly can to ensure that all Americans have a solid understanding of personal finance.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of this resolution.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1345

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.) The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 148.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FIREFIGHTERS FOR THEIR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 188) recognizing and honoring firefighters for their many contributions throughout the history of the Nation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 188

Whereas in 1736 Benjamin Franklin founded the Union Fire Company, the first volunteer fire company;

Whereas there are more than 1,100,000 firefighters in the United States;

Whereas approximately 75 percent of all firefighters are volunteers who receive little or no compensation for their heroic work;

Whereas career and combination fire departments protect 3 out of 4 Americans;

Whereas there are more than 30,000 fire departments in the United States;

Whereas approximately 100 firefighters die in the line of duty each year;

Whereas more than 340 firefighters died responding to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001;

Whereas firefighters respond to more than 24,000,000 calls during an average year;

Whereas firefighters also provide emergency medical services and life safety education; and

Whereas it is estimated that on April 7, 2005, more than 2,000 firefighters will attend the 17th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner and Seminars;

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors and recognizes the more than 1,100,000 firefighters in the United States for their contributions to and sacrifice for the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this worthwhile resolution that honors our Nation's incredible firefighters. This resolution extends the most sincere gratitude of the House of Representatives to the more than 1 million men and women who stand ready to put their lives on the line each time that fire station alarm bell rings.

Madam speaker, American firefighters respond to nearly 25 million calls each year from citizens across the country. Their dependability and service during countless kinds of urgent events are traits that Americans have come to count on.

From their unequal bravery at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, to their responsiveness during the 2003 California wildfires, to their aid provided time and time again following the series of hurricanes in Florida last fall, firefighters have been on the front lines of many headlining emergencies in recent years.

Through these events, I believe Americans have gained an even greater level of admiration for firefighters because of their courage and selflessness.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of all Members, I want to thank firefighters for their service to this country. I highly commend the distinguished ranking member of the homeland security select subcommittee, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), for introducing this measure.

I urge the adoption of House Resolution 188.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time



as he might consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 188, a bipartisan resolution that I have offered, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), honoring the service and sacrifices of our Nation's firefighters.

I am a former volunteer firefighter, so I understand what our 1.1 million firefighters give up in the name of service. Our firefighters, whether they are paid or volunteer, put their lives at risk with every call they must answer.

Our paid firefighters are active in many charitable activities that benefit our communities. They lose time away from their families. They train and prepare, yet they never complain. Madam Speaker, in the case of volunteer firefighters, they often have to devote time in raising money to purchase equipment and pay for training that will keep them safe while they protect us and our property.

Sadly, each year over 100 firefighters lose their lives in the line of duty. I encourage every Member of Congress to pay a visit to the National Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

From my home State of Mississippi in 2004, two firefighters were killed in the line of duty. Those two firefighters, Elliott Davis, Jr., and Terrie Eiland, paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect their fellow citizens.

Recently, Mississippi constructed a memorial park in Pearl, Mississippi, to honor the 67 firefighters from the State who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. We all vividly remember the heroism of the firefighters in New York on 9/11; over 340 firefighters lost their lives on this horrific day.

It is impossible to know, Madam Speaker, how many thousands of lives the selfless response of the New York firefighters saved that day. Our firefighters and other first responders are the first line of defense for many incidents of terrorism or national disaster.

This week over 2,000 fire service leaders from around the United States are in Washington to attend the 17th annual Natural Fire and Emergency Services dinner and seminar. These fine men and women are here to learn more about what we are doing in Washington to support firefighters.

At the same time, we can learn a great deal from them. These men and women are the living embodiment of what makes this country so great. I encourage each Member of Congress to take time from their schedules to meet with their local fire service representatives who are in town.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to stand before this body in support of House Resolution 188, a measure that honors and recognizes firefighters for their many contributions throughout our history. In many respects, this measure says thank you to all firefighters for all of the sacrifices, the dedication, and the commitment

they continually display in protecting our towns, cities, States, and our Nation.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 8 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) who has been, in my time in Congress, the leader of the Fire Caucus and the go-to guy on fire issues.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I want to first of all thank my distinguished chairman for his kind comments and for his leadership on a number of issues, especially those today dealing with the fire service, and thank the distinguished ranking member as well and the other Members who will speak here today.

Madam Speaker, I would not be in this body were it not for my involvement in the fire service of America. I grew up the youngest of nine children in a fire service family. Like my six older brothers and father, I became involved as a firefighter, president of my fire company, chief of my fire company, state instructor, and while teaching school during the day went back and got a degree in fire protection.

When I came to Congress, what I saw was a Federal Government that was not being responsive to the 1.2 million men and women who serve this country. It was back 18 years ago that we formed the Fire Caucus. It has been the largest caucus in the Congress for the past 10 years, 340 Members.

The institute, which will benefit from the dinner tomorrow night, works the issues of firefighters in this Congress, and has given us unbelievable success, success in the form of grants. Working with our good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and our good friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and others, we have established great programs to assist these people in protecting their towns.

And to our colleagues I would say, you know, the fire service is more than just people who fight fires. They are really the heart and soul of America. They are the backbone of our communities. The 32,000 organizations, 85 percent of whom are volunteer, are the organizations that organize July 4th parades, Memorial Day celebrations; they rescue the cats in the trees.

They pump the cellars out when they are flooded. They are the people who allow us to vote in their fire halls on election day. They are the receptions where we have our weddings and our anniversaries in the fire station. They host the Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. They are the fabric of what makes America what it is. There is no other group of people in the country that works as largely volunteers, where 100 of them are killed during the course of their volunteer activities, as well as their paid activities.

The fire service is America. It is older than the country is, the first fire

department having been founded 250 years ago. The fire service is what this country is all about, people who give back in small towns and big cities to protect our communities.

The fire service is finally getting national recognition, and all of us need to continue that effort. Madam Speaker, in my 20 years in Congress, I have been at all of our disasters of major significance: The floods in the Midwest, the Murrah Building bombing in Oklahoma City, Hurricanes Andrew and Hugo, Loma Pietra, Northridge earthquakes, and in every case, every case, the men and women of the fire service are there protecting our towns. They are our domestic defenders. They are the people who respond for us.

Madam Speaker, I was at the World Trade Center in 1993 and met a fellow who would become my good friend, Chief Ray Downey. He made recommendations to us that we in this Congress took to heart. We established the Gilmore Commission because of Chief Downey's recommendations. The saddest call I took on September the 11 of 2001 was from a battalion chief friend of mine in New York who said, "Curt, Ray is down. He has been killed by the collapse of the first tower."

I said, "I will be on the first train into New York the next day." And so I went on the first Amtrak train into New York City, was met at Penn Station by a battalion chief and taken down to Ground Zero where I spent the day at the headquarters of the Fire Department of New York, with the firefighters who were there doing harrowing acts and attempting to identify people that were still trapped.

As I walked from the center of the activity at Ground Zero around the back of one of these seven-story piles of rubble, I could see two firefighters on their knees. And I could barely read the back of their turn-out gear. As I got closer, I saw the names on the back, and there were the names Downey and Downey.

You see, like firefighting families all across America, when the father gets involved, so do the brothers and so do the uncles. There were two of Ray Downey's five kids, searching through the rubble to try to find the remains of their father at the last site that he had been seen.

We did not find Ray Downey's remains until 8 months later through DNA evidence, that we could give him a proper burial. I said it cannot get much worse than this. But you have to understand, Madam Speaker, who those men and women are. I went back to the Javits Center with the head of the firefighters union, Harold Shaitberger.

Our job was to greet the family members of those who were missing, the 343 firefighters that were missing and eventually were determined to be killed in the collapse of the Trade Center towers. And I remember two families standing out. The first was a woman in her late 30s. She had a baby

in her arms and was being held up by her brother and her sister. As she came in, I said, I am terribly sorry. The country is grieving with you. Who is missing?

She said, Congressman, my husband is missing. He was the rock of my family. He was everything. He was a great neighbor. He was involved in the community. What do I do now, Congressman? We have 10 children.

We sometimes take these people for granted. Ten children yet still developing time to help protect his neighbors and his friends and people he had never met.

And then a second woman came in in her 50s. She was being helped by her brother. I went over and I embraced her. I said, I am terribly sorry. Who is missing? And she said, Congressman, my husband is missing.

Her name was Angelini, I will never forget it. She said, Congressman, my husband was ready to retire from the New York City Fire Department, just a matter of months after a full career. He is gone, I know he will not be back, because I would have gotten a call by now.

I said, I am terribly sorry, Mrs. Angelini. She said, But, Congressman, my son is gone too. You see, he wanted to be like his father.

So Angelini Junior was like his father, a firefighter in New York. Both of them were killed by the collapse of the Trade Center towers. How do we tell that family that the work they did is so vitally important to our country? We tell it by doing the things that we are doing in Congress to support those firefighters that are alive.

And I would ask my colleagues on this day that we welcome 2,200 firefighters to Washington to help me right a wrong. Junior firefighters today have been ruled by the Justice Department that they are not eligible as American heroes. It is outrageous to the junior firefighters killed in the line of duty, 1 year below the normal age of 18, cannot qualify for public safety officer death benefits.

We need to right the wrong of the Justice Department so that anyone who volunteers, whether it be a 15- or 16-year-old junior firefighter in Wisconsin, or whether it be a 17-year-old Eagle Scout doing his volunteer fire work in Florida, if they are killed in the line of duty, they too are American heroes.

Today, that is not the case. So I thank my colleagues for their support. I thank them for their leadership. I welcome everyone tomorrow night as we celebrate, for the 17th time, America's true domestic defenders, the men and women of the American fire service. I thank my colleagues for yielding the time to me.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), another strong proponent of firefighters.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me this time.

We are overwhelmed. This is a great piece of legislation that has been introduced by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON). We are all supportive of it.

□ 1400

The gentleman from Pennsylvania and I are always overwhelmed day in and day out by the work of all of our first responders, and today we recognize our firefighters.

Just recently, Madam Speaker, we had tremendous floods in north Jersey. Who were the first there? The first there were our firefighters, and the best action we could take was to recognize their service and to do something about it here.

I want to commend the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), my good friend, the ranking member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, for this resolution and for his leadership of some of the most important issues of our time.

This resolution, H. Res. 188, pays needed tribute to the over 1.1 million firefighters in the United States, who take 24 million calls a year. Think about that. Day in and day out. It gives us a chance to say thank you to the men and women who contributed to and sacrificed so much for this country.

Every 19 seconds a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in America. Over 1.5 million fires are handled by public fire departments. These are staggering figures when we know many places have manpower shortages; many places do not have the resources within the municipalities to do what has to be done.

Firefighters risk their lives at an alarming rate, and we know their heroism is absolutely critical. Where we would be without them, Madam Speaker? What would we do without them?

The work of firefighters is as noble as it is vital, and we will remain forever grateful. They are truly heroes, truly heroes in our midst.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues, I plead with my colleagues, the chairman, the ranking member, that we not forget these words today when we have to reinforce the Fire Act, when we have to appropriate for the SAFER Act so that we put our actions where our words are.

God bless these men and women that put their lives on the line every day, and I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and just note that I rise in support of H. Res. 188, honoring the service of America's firefighters.

Every day these Americans risk their lives to save others. Three hundred forty-five firefighters died at the World

Trade Center, but what is not mentioned is that one-quarter of them were off duty. They were off duty, but those firefighters heard the call they were needed. They risked, and in some cases sacrificed, their lives in order to save others.

In America such sacrifices are a daily occurrence. Three times a minute there is a fire call somewhere in the country. Firefighters never know when that call could be their last.

This resolution is a very simple way for us to say thank you for the job you do. We honor you. You make a difference every day.

I urge its adoption.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), thank him for his leadership on this issue, and thank him for his commitment to firefighters throughout this country.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of our Nation's firefighters. I am proud to have cosponsored this resolution. I am even more proud of my work with the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, which I have been privileged to cochair with the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), who started that caucus, and who is, I think, probably the most ardent spokesperson on behalf of firefighters and firefighting safety in this country.

The Fire Services Caucus, Madam Speaker, has long championed initiatives to include the safety and well-being of our Nation's firefighters and to enhance their ability to protect our communities.

Specifically, we have worked to establish and fund the assistance to the firefighters grant program, which has provided more than \$2 billion in equipment and training grants for career and volunteer fire departments across the country.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that we recognize the extraordinary contribution to the passage of that act. Indeed, he was the author of that act, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL). I want to thank him for his leadership which is untiring, unflagging and so effective on behalf of our firefighters and the emergency response personnel all over this country. I thank him.

Madam Speaker, more recently we have worked to authorize and fund the SAFER program, which the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) also talked about, and perhaps others have as well, which provides much-needed assistance to allow career and volunteer departments to hire and recruit additional personnel. Understaffing is not only a safety problem for our neighborhoods, but a safety problem for our men and women who risk their lives in our defense.

It is appropriate that we work tirelessly on behalf of the 1.1 million men and women serving as our domestic defenders. We send men and women abroad to defend freedom, to defend democracy. We are tragically losing some of those people in Iraq today and perhaps Afghanistan. They do so as volunteers. They do so because they believe in our country, in its ideals and in freedom.

Very frankly, here at home we are kept safe by men and women in uniform as well, our police and our firefighters and our emergency responders. We owe them not only a debt of gratitude, but we owe investing in their enterprise to keep them safe and to keep our neighborhoods and communities safe.

We ask far too many of them to risk their lives in our defense every day with outdated equipment, Madam Speaker, insufficient training and inadequate staffing, and we have an obligation to provide them the necessary resources to perform their jobs as safely and effectively as possible.

By honoring this obligation and supporting programs like the SAFER Act and the fire grants, we not only ensure they will go home to their loved ones at the end of the day, we also enable them to better perform their job by protecting us and our loved ones every day.

Madam Speaker, we will all vote for this resolution. It is easy to vote for resolutions. It is appropriate to vote for this resolution, but if we really mean what we say in honoring these firefighters, men and women, volunteers and career, if we really mean that, the gentleman from New Jersey is correct, and I am sure, I have not heard others speak, but I am sure the observation was made as well, we need to invest our resources behind the work that they do. This resolution, while appropriate and while important, it will not be as meaningful as it otherwise would be.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers on our side, I do not believe, on this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I will close for our side, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Firefighters are indeed on the front lines between the public and the devastation that fires or other emergencies can cause. This mostly volunteer force helps protect the public interest from these dangers by rapidly responding to a variety of emergencies despite hazardous conditions and long, irregular hours.

Every year fires and other emergencies take thousands of lives and destroy property worth billions of dollars. Fire kills 3,700 and injures more than 20,000 people each year. Direct property losses due to fire reach almost \$11 billion a year.

Firefighters pay a high price as well. Approximately 100 firefighters die in the line of duty each year.

Firefighters must be prepared to respond immediately to a fire or any other emergency that arises. Because fighting fires is dangerous and complicated, it requires organization and teamwork. Education, training and teamwork have lowered the rate of America's fire losses today to represent a dramatic improvement from more than 20 years ago. In 1971, this Nation lost more than 12,000 citizens and 250 firefighters to fire.

We owe a debt of gratitude to firefighters for making our communities safer. Therefore, I strongly support this resolution and urge that all of my colleagues do the same, and we continue to owe tremendous debts of gratitude to those men and women who every day protect us from fires.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois, and I thank all the other speakers on this important resolution. I think it is important that we, as a Congress, periodically recognize the contributions and the sacrifices that our firefighters make on our behalf every single day. So I hope all Members will join me in supporting the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res 188, which recognizes and honors the contributions firefighters have made to our country.

Firefighters have played an important role in our nation's history since the first volunteer fire company was founded in 1736 by Benjamin Franklin. Firefighters take their oath of public safety very seriously and go above and beyond their call of duty to serve and protect the citizens of the United States.

On September 11, 2001, the firefighters of our nation selflessly risked and gave their lives in one of most tragic days in the history of our country. The site of those brave men and women putting their lives on the line to enter the smoldering World Trade Center to save as many people as they could is still a humbling vision three years later. My heart goes out to the hundreds of firefighters who gave their lives on that horrible day.

The terrorist attacks were not just attacks on New York City, but on the nation. With New York as a continuing top terrorist target, the protection of New York City is becoming a national responsibility. Other cities with tall buildings throughout the country face the same challenges with their communication systems and will need the same upgrades. Improvements in New York will lay the groundwork for improvements to communications systems across the country.

In light of this fact, it is my hope Congress will redouble its efforts to insist that communications systems of firefighters in high-risk urban areas be upgraded. The "9/11 Can You Hear Me Now Act," which Congresswoman Maloney will be introducing soon with my support, instructs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to provide a communication

system that must be capable of operating in all locations and under the circumstances we know firefighters face and will continue to face when responding to emergencies.

Today and every day, the bravery and self-sacrifice of the firefighters in the United States deserves to be commended. Their efforts have had an enormous impact on the public safety of our citizens. Thanks to the 1.1 million firefighters in the United States, the country is a safer place to live.

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 188, which honors our nation's firefighters for the life-saving work they do every day to keep our families safe and secure. All too often we take for granted the heroic efforts of these dedicated public servants, and I am pleased to join my colleagues in taking a moment to say thank you.

On Chicago's North Side, there is a large mural dedicated to the memory of fallen firefighters. It depicts several events where these brave men and women answered the call to rescue their fellow citizens. The events pictured range from the tragic 1958 fire at Our Lady of the Angels school in Chicago to the events of September 11th, 2001. In each of these emergencies, firefighters have selflessly risked their lives so that others may live. The words in the center of the mural say it all: "First Ones In, Last Ones Out."

On December 7th last year, a fire broke out in Chicago's LaSalle Bank Building, a landmark skyscraper built in 1934. As flames and heavy smoke poured out of the 29th floor windows, dozens of Chicago firefighters entered the building. These heroes showed exceptional professionalism and valor as they evacuated all 45 stories of the building and extinguished the fire. Of the 37 people injured in the fire, 22 were Chicago firefighters. As a direct result of their swift response and expertise, no lives were lost in one of the city's worst fires in recent memory.

Chicago firefighters receive a great deal of attention when handling major events such as the LaSalle Bank fire, but perhaps their greatest achievement is in the quiet work of prevention, inspection and education. Fire-related fatalities in Chicago are at a 25-year low, thanks to improvements in building safety and community outreach efforts by local firehouses to schools, senior centers and neighborhood associations. Chicago's citizens are now better informed about how to prevent and handle emergency situations, and they view their local firehouse as an important and valuable resource in the neighborhood.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues calling up this important resolution today, and I look forward to working with them to provide America's firefighters with the support and resources they need to continue their heroic work.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 188, legislation that recognizes the courageous sacrifices of our nation's firefighters. I would like to thank the gentleman from Mississippi for introducing this symbolic and vital resolution.

Every day, firefighters risk their lives protecting our families, our property and our way of life. They fight for our security, not because they have to, but because they choose to.

Over the years in California, wildfires have destroyed homes, damaged properties and threatened the livelihood of thousands of families.

In 2003, Southern California and the Inland Empire experienced devastation like never before. Wildfires burned more than 740,000 acres of forest. Nearly 3,600 homes were destroyed and many people lost their lives. At one point, nearly 16,000 firefighters were battling the blazes at the peak of devastation. Without the bravery and fortitude of our firefighters, the wildfires in Southern California would not have been extinguished.

This exhibition in public service is not limited to my district or state. From the forests of California to the streets of New York City, firefighters selflessly put themselves in harm's way, believing in their call to duty.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to these brave men and women who fight daily for our safety.

Madam Speaker, I stand in strong support of this resolution and commend Congressman THOMPSON for his sponsorship. We need to continue to support individuals that are willing to stand on the line for us. I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing these selfless acts.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated men and women who serve my district, the State of Connecticut, and our nation as firefighters.

Today, across the country, over 1.1 million career and volunteer firefighters stand ready to answer our calls for help. In 2003, our 30,524 fire departments responded to 22.4 million alarms—an average of one every 20 seconds. They work and volunteer countless hours ensuring the safety of others, and if needed, are ready to risk their life to save another.

Firefighters are truly on the front lines of protecting our communities and our nation, and in recent years their role has extended beyond just putting out fires. Today, firefighters serve as the first responders for medical emergencies, provide search and rescue services to victims trapped in burning or collapsed buildings, handle hazardous materials and extract injured persons from car accidents. Above all else, they provide hope to those in need in times of danger and despair.

I have met many of the men and women who serve as firefighters in the first district of Connecticut, and I am proud to represent such brave and dedicated public servants. Each and every day, these selfless heroes give their all to protect our communities and our families. I thank them for their service and urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 188.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 188, a resolution to honor and recognize firefighters for their many contributions throughout the history of the Nation. As a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I commend the service and honorable duty firefighters across the country provide to our communities. I am especially proud of the firefighters and fire departments that protect and look after the 12th Congressional District of Illinois.

For the fire service to maintain a strong voice in the federal discourse on homeland security issues, we must have a strong U.S. Fire Administration and sufficient funding for personnel, vehicles, and equipment. As a result, I have continually supported the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program and have been very successful in helping many departments in Southern Illinois secure grants to im-

prove their operations each fiscal year. Additionally, I am a cosponsor of several bills in the 109th Congress to aid firefighters and fire departments to ensure they are properly equipped to protect themselves and their communities.

I am pleased the House of Representatives is considering H. Res. 188 today, and urge my colleagues to support the passage of the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand today in support of H. Res. 188 which recognizes and honors our nation's firefighters for the many contributions throughout our nation's history. Their great efforts range from ground support following the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York to relief efforts following the Tsunami of the Coast of Aceh Indonesia. Not only do our nation's firefighters contribute on an international scale, but they also support our local communities in times of need and distress.

In January of this year, in my district, I joined forces with local humanitarian organizations, and federal, state, and local officials to conduct a medical relief drive for the Tsunami (in Indonesia) victims. To this end, I also worked closely with the City of Houston's Fire Department. They were very instrumental in helping to receive medical supplies and other items for the victims. My sincerest thanks goes out to Fire Chief Phil Boriskie and to the City of Houston for their efforts and strong commitment to providing relief for Tsunami victims.

Currently there are over 1.1 million firefighters in our nation, and 75 percent are volunteers. These are individuals who put their life on the line everyday. They deserve all the honor and notoriety we can give them.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 188.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CAPTAIN MARK STUBENHOFFER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1460) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, as the "Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1460

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CAPTAIN MARK STUBENHOFFER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1460, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may require.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1460, which I introduced to recognize the bravery and selfless dedication of Captain Mark Stubenhofer.

Captain Stubenhofer was born in Fairfax, Virginia, on April 18, 1974. He grew up there in the suburbs of this great capital of freedom, and he was an all-American from the start.

Mark delivered newspapers in the morning before school. He worked long after the school day ended doing homework or practicing baseball. He attended West Springfield High School in West Springfield, Fairfax County, and he attended Nativity Catholic Church nearby.

He was elected student government vice president at West Springfield and played varsity baseball. After graduation, he went on to Clemson University where he honed his leadership skills through the school's ROTC program. He graduated from Clemson in May of 1996 and immediately began fulfilling his obligation to the Army.

Captain Stubenhofer was commissioned as an infantry officer and attended both the elite Airborne and Ranger schools. He went on to serve two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During his first tour in 2003, he helped liberate five Iraqi cities. In his second tour, Captain Stubenhofer served as a company commander for the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. He was awarded numerous medals and honors, among them two Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal and two Army Commendation Medals.

Madam Speaker, during his final tour of duty, Captain Stubenhofer's third child was born, a daughter he asked his beloved wife Patty to name Hope. As he commented in his last phone conversation to his parents, the reason for the name was that it was hope that brought him to Iraq in the courageous

service of his country. Tragically, Captain Stubenhofer never met his daughter Hope. He was killed in combat on December 7, 2004.

Madam Speaker, we owe Captain Mark Stubenhofer, and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country, a debt of gratitude that we can never repay.

While we pay homage to fallen heroes like Mark with memorials or post offices, the most fitting tribute is the enduring memory of their lives.

As Pericles, the greater orator, builder and general of Athens, said, for to famous men, all the Earth is a sepulcher, and the virtues shall be testified not only by the inscription in stone at home, but by an unwritten record of the mind which more than any monument will remain with every-one forever.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to forever remember Captain Mark Stubenhofer and to keep a record in our minds and hearts of the great works and sacrifices that all of our sons and daughters of the military continue to make on our behalf. Captain Stubenhofer was one of America's finest.

□ 1415

His deeds and sacrifices will forever be remembered by his friends and family and by a grateful community in Springfield, Virginia, who share with me their pride in having his name enshrined on our local post office.

I thank the Virginia delegation for their unanimous support of this resolution, and I ask all Members to pass H.R. 1460.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume; and as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join our chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), in the consideration of H.R. 1460, legislation naming the U.S. postal facility in Springfield, Virginia, after Captain Mark Stubenhofer. This measure, which has been sponsored by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, was introduced with the support and cosponsorship of the entire Virginia delegation.

Captain Mark Norman Stubenhofer died on December 7, 2004, in Baghdad, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by small arms fire. Captain Stubenhofer, a company commander, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 41st Regiment, 1st Armored Division in Fort Riley, Kansas. Captain Stubenhofer, a native of Springfield, Virginia, was on his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed.

Mark Stubenhofer graduated from West Springfield High School in 1992. In high school, he was a student government leader, member of the homecoming court, and baseball player. After high school, Mark went on to graduate from Clemson University

with a degree in history in 1996. Mark joined the Army after graduating from college. While in the Army, he was certified as an Army Ranger and jump instructor. He earned the Bronze Star during his first tour of duty in Iraq.

He left behind a wife, Patty, and three children, Lauren, Justin, and Hope. Madam Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) for seeking to honor the sacrifice of Captain Stubenhofer by naming a postal facility in his honor in his hometown. I urge swift adoption of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to simply urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 1460.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1460.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON HIS DEATH

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of April 5, 2005, and as the designee of the majority leader, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 190) honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 190

Whereas His Holiness Pope John Paul II was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920, and on October 16, 1978, was elected the 264th Pope of the Catholic Church, making history by becoming the first Pope from Poland and the first non-Italian Pope in more than 400 years;

Whereas Pope John Paul II dedicated his long life to the peace and well-being of mankind;

Whereas Pope John Paul II risked his own life by defying the Nazi forces which occupied Poland during World War II and protecting its Jewish population, while trying to inspire faith in the oppressed;

Whereas Pope John Paul II returned to his native Poland in June 1979, unleashing a patriotic and religious force that would ultimately lead to the peaceful toppling of the Communist regime in Poland;

Whereas Pope John Paul II was a unique, substantial, and historic catalyst in the demise of Soviet communism and the emancipation of hundreds of millions of people from totalitarian rule;

Whereas Pope John Paul II used public and private diplomacy and the power of moral suasion to encourage world leaders to respect the inalienable rights of the human person;

Whereas Pope John Paul II articulated the importance of individual liberty being undergirded by a "moral order", embraced the poor and oppressed masses of the world, and encouraged governments and the faithful to attend to the needs of those who are less fortunate;

Whereas Pope John Paul II ministered to Catholic and non-Catholic alike, providing a personal example of grace, endurance, compassion, courage, sacrifice, and foresight;

Whereas Pope John Paul II was an articulate and outspoken advocate for religious freedom and Christian humanism, asserting that the Catholic Church could not claim religious liberty for itself unless it was willing to concede it to others;

Whereas Pope John Paul II sought to heal divisions between the Catholic Church and other Christian faiths, expressing sadness and regret for the acts of individual past and present Catholics who persecuted others on account of their faith, and promoting reconciliation through dialogue with Jews and Muslims and through visits to areas of historic conflict, including Ireland and the Holy Land;

Whereas Pope John Paul II traveled more extensively than any other Pope, traversing nearly three-quarters of a million miles, visiting more than 125 countries, being seen by more people than any person in human history, and ministering to more than six million people at once in the closing mass of World Youth Day 1995 in the Philippines;

Whereas on January 8, 2001, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, J. Dennis Hastert, presented Pope John Paul II with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award that Congress can bestow upon any individual;

Whereas in November 2003 the House of Representatives and the Senate unanimously agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 313, which called upon the President, on behalf of the United States, to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Pope John Paul II;

Whereas on June 4, 2004, President George W. Bush traveled to the Vatican and presented Pope John Paul II with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award of the United States Government;

Whereas, even as Pope John Paul II struggled to regain his physical strength after suffering failings in his physical condition in early 2005, he continued to minister to the faithful, while suffering with grace and in silence; and

Whereas up until the moment of his death on April 2, 2005, Pope John Paul II remained faithful and principled, inspiring a continuing defense of the unique dignity of every human life: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) has learned with profound sorrow of the death of His Holiness Pope John Paul II;

(2) expresses gratitude for the life of Pope John Paul II and the innumerable blessings manifested through his service;

(3) commends the life's work of Pope John Paul II, recognizing his enduring and historic contributions to the causes of freedom, human dignity, and peace in the world;

(4) expresses condolences to the people of Poland for the loss of such an inspirational figure in Poland's transformation from a totalitarian regime to democratic government;

(5) extends its heartfelt sympathy to the more than one billion Catholics around the world, including more than sixty-six million Catholics in the United States, who looked

to Pope John Paul II as Supreme Pontiff; and

(6) calls upon the people of the United States to reflect on the life of Pope John Paul II during the worldwide period of remembrance following his death.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State with a request that the Secretary transmit it to the Papal Secretary of State at the Vatican.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 5, 2005, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 190, the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to speak in honor of the life and the achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. It is hard to imagine any other person who holds so much worldwide respect regardless of religious faith. The estimated 4 million people, including 200 heads of state, expected to attend the Pope's funeral in Rome later this week will bear witness to history's high regard for this man of principle and courage.

John Paul II dedicated his long life to peace and freedom for all mankind. As a young man, the Pontiff risked his life and defied Nazi forces which occupied Poland in an effort to protect the Jewish population and others in his homeland. As the 264th Pope, his faith remained steadfast during the years of the Cold War, playing an important role in the demise of Soviet communism.

As columnist Charles Krauthammer commented this week, "John Paul II's first great mission was to reclaim his native Eastern Europe for civilization, and he demonstrated what Europe had forgotten and Stalin never knew: the power of faith as an instrument of political mobilization." Visiting more than 125 countries over his career, the Pope reached out to people of other cultures and religions in an effort toward greater understanding, healing, and harmony.

Despite the steady decline in his health due to Parkinson's disease, and especially since he fell ill in early February, John Paul II continued to lead the Roman Catholic Church with his gentle strength and noble heart. He remained faithful, principled, and resolute concerning the continuing defense of the Church's traditional belief in the unique dignity of every human life from conception until natural death.

During a long and fruitful life, he literally provided the world with an example of how to live with dignity and unshakable faith. He told us to "be not afraid" in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. He showed us how to demand justice from the unjust. His faith inspired us when we most needed reassurance. His composure and dignity during times of great suffering serves as an inspiration to us all. He bore his personal cross with grace and serenity until the very end of his long and remarkable life.

As John Paul II has said, "Faith opens us to a hope that does not disappoint, placing us before the perspective of the final resurrection." While life itself is short and tenuous, I am comforted by the fact that His Holiness is finally at home and in a place of peace and refreshment with the Father. I am sure he is praying for us even now, as we are praying for him.

It is appropriate we mourn his passing. It is right and proper that we grieve over the loss of humanity's great champion; but we should also feel gratitude that this Pope stayed with us for so long and look forward to the time when we will hear the words he surely heard last Saturday: "Come, Beloved of my Father, and enter the Kingdom which has been prepared for you since the beginning of time."

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, at the outset, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), for authoring this resolution remembering the life of Pope John Paul II. I also welcome the wholehearted support for this measure of my friend, our Democratic leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Madam Speaker, one billion Catholics worldwide, more than 60 million of them Americans, have suffered the staggering loss of a unique spiritual leader. And for all humanity, Pope John Paul II was a towering figure in the struggle for freedom. He railed against injustice all his life. He fought tirelessly on behalf of the poor, and he kept alive the aspirations of the oppressed wherever they were.

Those of us who have shared in his fight against both Nazism and communism have a special appreciation for him. Those of us who lived in the grip of Nazism and communism will always be grateful for his eloquence and his courage in his fight against Hitler's tyranny and Soviet domination during the Cold War.

I had the profound honor, with my wife, of having a serious conversation with Pope John Paul II during the visit

to Rome in 1998. In our long discussion with His Holiness, we were struck by his clarity of mind, his captivating personality, and his absolute refusal to let his deteriorating health force him to remain behind the walls of Vatican City. These impressions came back to me during these very last days when a Pope silenced by illness nevertheless continued to call out forcefully for freedom and peace and to bring comfort to millions around the globe.

In his first public address at his installation as the Supreme Pontiff in 1978, John Paul II famously urged the faithful, and I quote, "Be not afraid." In the decades that followed, this message resonated well beyond the Church and the City of Rome. Within months of assuming his papacy, Pope John Paul II traveled to his native Poland. Enormous crowds poured onto the streets to greet him. The Pope pointed out that it was impossible to understand Poland without the context of Catholicism, and that, in his words, "There can be no just Europe without the independence of Poland."

Throughout the 1980s, the Pope remained in constant contact with the nascent Solidarity labor movement and with the Polish Government, pushing successfully for the end of martial law in 1983, and, ultimately, Madam Speaker, the end of the Polish Communist regime in 1989.

The demise of communism in Poland dramatically influenced the pace of Democratic change throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Americans, together with the rest of the world, will be eternally grateful for his important role in bringing liberty and democracy to tens of millions of men and women behind the Iron Curtain.

The Pontiff went on to provide inspiration for the "people power" revolt against the corrupt rule of Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, and he strongly supported the pro-democracy efforts of the Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin. Marcos fell from power in 1986. Then the Pope traveled to Chile in 1987 and spoke out firmly against the authoritarian rule of Augusto Pinochet. Democracy took hold in Chile in 1990. Then the Pope traveled to East Timor in 1999, inspiring a whole generation of young Timorese to protest Indonesian occupation. East Timor won its freedom in 2002.

Pope John Paul II also made extraordinary efforts to repair relations between Catholics and Jews. In 1982, he took the historic step of establishing diplomatic relations between the Vatican and the State of Israel. He became the first Pope in modern times to visit a synagogue. In 2000, he was the first Pope to travel to the State of Israel; and there, Madam Speaker, he quietly read a prayer of reconciliation at the Western Wall, requesting forgiveness for the sins of the Church against Jews through the centuries.

□ 1430

At a somber visit to the Yad Vashem, the memorial to the Holocaust, the



Pope spoke movingly of his Jewish friends he had lost to the death camps during the Holocaust, and he recommended the Catholic Church to battling anti-Semitism around the globe. He said, "The world must heed the warning that comes to all of us from the victims of the Holocaust, and from the testimony of the survivors."

Madam Speaker, with his efforts to reach out to Jews worldwide and to the State of Israel, and with his ceaseless work to promote human rights globally, Pope John Paul II, became a truly historic figure. We were all inspired by his passion for justice. His voice will be missed in the great global chorus that sings out for freedom in all corners of the world. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, first of all, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Abraham Lincoln was succeeded by Andrew Johnson. Johnson was impeached by his fellow Republicans. Teddy Roosevelt became so frustrated with his successor, he came back to run against him.

Great Presidents and great Popes are seldom succeeded by great Presidents and great Popes, which is why so many of us mourn the loss of Pope John Paul II so much.

I never saw him in person. As a third-generation Lutheran boy marrying a Catholic girl, I take a more ecumenical view of the papacy. Until John Paul II, I saw the Pope as generally irrelevant to matters of personal faith and world events. Karol Wojtyla changed all that. He began his papacy with those simple words, "Be not afraid." He lived those words until his dying breath. History always finds a special place for the fearless.

He understood something that many Western sophisticates do not. There is enormous persuasive power in communicating deeply held moral truths. President Victor Yushchenko reminded us today of something the Pope said. He said, "The path of truth is often difficult, but never impossible."

He literally took up his cross daily and led charismatically his massive flock. He spoke with clarity to them and to the world. He led by example, and in the process, like St. Peter before him, he changed the world.

He stared down the Soviets when they threatened to put down the Solidarity movement in his native Poland. He traveled more and touched the lives of more people than any Pontiff in history. I thank God for giving us Karol Wojtyla. He will be succeeded. He will be hard to replace.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

One of the great experiences I have had in life was to have an audience with Pope John Paul II. I traveled to Rome with the former mayor of the city of Chicago, Harold Washington; two other colleagues of mine at the time, a Jewish gentleman, Larry Bloom, and a Polish gentleman, Bill Krystaniak. The four of us met with the Pope, two African Americans, a Jewish person, and a Pole. When we were ready to leave, Bill Krystaniak replied, "We can actually end our trip because one of my wishes has been fulfilled."

Each one of us left with a tremendous sense of peace and tranquility, knowing that we had been in the presence of encompassing greatness, one who fought poverty, ignorance, discrimination, totalitarianism, whose arms were wide enough and broad enough and strong enough to embrace the hopes of the world.

I strongly support this resolution. Chicago is home to more Poles than any city in the world with the exception of Warsaw, and I know that we experienced a tremendous sense of pride, not only our Polish citizens, but all of Chicago, knowing that Pope John Paul II, had passed our way.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Pope John Paul II. He served as the head of the Catholic Church during a tumultuous 26 year period that saw changes that rocked the World as well as the Church. During his life, Pope John Paul II's influence extended far beyond the Catholic faithful to non-Catholics and world leaders. As a result, his death is mourned by people of all faiths around the world.

In his role as head of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II led a growing Church that spans 6 continents and consists of people from very different backgrounds. His credibility as a leader was bolstered by his willingness to take stands that were often unpopular and sometimes viewed by many in highly developed countries as anachronistic. His willingness to take stands that reflected the traditional teachings of the Church was strengthened by his willingness to acknowledge that the Church had at times failed to stress its traditional teachings during challenging periods. He did not just acknowledge past errors, but sought to prevent future ones by confronting the totalitarian threat of his time, the Soviet Union.

John Paul II was a tireless champion of democracy in Eastern Europe and an unrelenting critic of the Soviet Union and its puppet regimes in Eastern Europe. His experience growing up in Nazi occupied and Soviet controlled Poland surely influenced his pro-democracy, anti-totalitarian worldview.

As Chicago is home to the largest number of Poles of any city in the world other than Warsaw, his death hits especially close to home. Many Chicagoans of Polish descent fled Poland during the crackdowns and turmoil of the 1980s—a period during which Pope John Paul II was a major figure in the pro-democracy, anti-Soviet movement in his homeland. Developments in Poland proved decisive

in ending Soviet domination in Eastern Europe as well as the collapse of the Soviet Union itself. For his leadership in the fight against totalitarianism, many people in Eastern Europe and of Eastern European descent hold him in particularly high esteem.

His leadership in the pro-democracy movements in Eastern Europe represents only one facet of his numerous accomplishments. A complete list would not be possible, though I am certain that my colleagues in the house will point out many more.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT).

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in rising to honor the life and achievements of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, and to express profound sorrow on his death. This week is bittersweet for people of faith throughout the world. We mourn the loss of a great leader and a man respected by people of many different faiths, yet we also celebrate his life and rejoice that he is now enjoying his eternal reward.

From the selection of the first Polish Pope and the first non-Italian Pope in over 400 years, Pope John Paul II's leadership of the Catholic Church was truly historic. Rightfully credited with helping bring about the end of communism, he also maintained a voice of morality during a time of overwhelming secularization of the West. The Pope was a stalwart in the fight against what he termed a "culture of death." He was unrelenting in his promotion of a culture of life.

Many talk of the Pope's legacy and presumed sainthood, but it seems the only legacy Pope John Paul II ever desired was a world of hope that celebrates life.

Our great 40th President, Ronald Reagan, is credited with restoring optimism to Americans, but even before Reagan, Pope John Paul II began his mission to restore hope to a pessimistic world. In carrying his message, Pope John Paul II tirelessly traveled all ends of the globe as no Pope and no leader has done before. Even as he was in great physical pain, he did not stop visiting people of all ethnicities, cultures and faiths to bring Christ's message.

Pope John Paul II inspired even the most cynical demographic of the human population, young adults. The Pope's message to the students of freedom and faith led to the success of Solidarity. In later years, the annual World Youth Days were filled with students eager to hear the Pope's message of faith and hope. The Pope challenged them to a life of service in all walks of life. He said, "Jesus, Servant and Lord, is also the one who calls. He calls us to be like him because only in service do human beings discover their own dignity and the dignity of others."

Mr. Speaker, the young people touched by Pope John Paul II will continue to carry out his work as they come to shape the world in coming years. It is fitting that Pope John Paul II was carried back home to the Lord

on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast day he instituted. His last message to the world, which was read posthumously, should be repeated often across the globe: "To humanity, which at times seems to be lost and dominated by the power of evil, egoism and fear, the risen Lord offers as a gift his love that forgives, reconciles and reopens the spirit to hope. It is love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much need the world has to understand and accept Divine Mercy."

Mr. Speaker, we pray that John Paul II's message will be burned in our hearts and guide us through the current and future world challenges. We also pray for the repose of his soul and are delighted that he is in the company of the Lord he dutifully served his 84 years on Earth.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support, along with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), on behalf of this resolution honoring the life and achievement of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, and expressing profound sorrow upon his death.

Mr. Speaker, while I am a United States Representative today, my first public position ever was that of an altar boy at St. Columbus Catholic Church in Columbus, Indiana, so it is with a particular sense of privilege that I rise today in this capacity to recognize the extraordinary life and work of Pope John Paul II.

My Catholic faith and that of my entire family continues to remain the bulwark of our world view, and much of that over the past three decades has been invigorated by the leadership and eloquence and courage of this man.

Now, many in the national media have commented since the Pope's passing this last Saturday about the nature of his appeal and the source of the international grief that has attended his passing. Many commentators in print and on television have suggested that his appeal is a direct result of his well-schooled public abilities, loosely defined as his charisma.

But I rise today in support of this resolution to respectfully disagree with those commentators and to say that I believe Pope John Paul II's appeal on a global scale is grounded in his role as a moral leader; in fact, one of the chief moral leaders on the planet of the 20th century.

His moral leadership and his personal courage were forged, as we have heard even today, from an extraordinary youth in the grip of Nazi Germany's tyranny. Pope John Paul II, from very early in his life, became an opponent of every form of government organized to present tyranny against the mind of man. His stands against communism throughout his life literally were the underpinning that brought down that

wall we heard President Yushchenko speak of with gratitude today.

He was also a moral leader not only for his own Christian church, but for the wider world. And as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) just shared eloquently, after centuries of silent enmity between Christendom and the ancient people of Israel, Pope John Paul II spoke words of reconciliation and healing.

In particular, his visit and prayers at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem was, I believe, a watershed event in the history of the Christian church and will resonate for centuries in the work of the Catholic Church and Christians across the globe.

Pope John Paul II stood against the immorality of communism and anti-Semitism and ensured that the church would remain a bulwark of moral truth. And he stood for the sanctity of life, as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) stated so eloquently. When the culture of death has made such a steady advance across Western civilization, Pope John Paul II stood for the unborn. His leadership, his voice, his compassion will be missed in the life of his church and, I argue humbly, the wider world. Pope John Paul II's death is a loss for humanity. He was not just the leader of the largest Christian church in the world, he was truly a moral leader.

May God rest his soul and bring comfort and consolation to millions of his adherents.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to tell a story. In January of 1945, a young Jewish girl, 13 years of age, stumbled from a Nazi labor camp in Poland, starved to skin and bones, and clad only in her striped rags. She shivered in the Polish winter.

□ 1445

Though she did not know it yet, Edith Zierer was completely alone in the world, her mother, father and sister murdered in Nazi camps. When she felt that she could no longer bear the cold, Edith rested in the corner of a train station.

Suddenly, a young man wearing a long robe, only 24 years of age himself, approached her. He gave Edith tea, bread and cheese and offered to help her get to Krakow to find her parents. She rose to thank him, but fell to the floor, unable to stand because she was so weak. The young man took Edith in his arms, carried her to the train, and sat down in a cattle car beside her. He shielded her from the cold with his coat, built a small fire for warmth, and accompanied her to Krakow.

Edith Zierer lived, and she still lives today as a result of the kindness of this stranger. Mr. Speaker, that generous stranger was also an orphan, a young seminarian named Karol Wojtyla, eventually Pope John Paul II.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we mean by a culture of life. A culture of life is sur-

living tragedy as Pope John Paul II did and pledging yourself to bettering the lives of others. A culture of life is forgiving those who try to extinguish your life as Pope John Paul II did when he visited his would-be assassin in jail and forgave him for his sins. A culture of life is knowing too well the misery of war and becoming a champion of peace. A culture of life is embracing the diversity of people living on this planet, advocating religious tolerance, human rights, and a more equitable distribution of the Earth's precious resources.

Mr. Speaker, a culture of life is treating each human being as Karol Wojtyla treated Edith Zierer. Let a culture of life, in this fashion, be Pope John Paul II's legacy.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. I thank the chairman for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I strongly support it.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II. Pope John Paul II was one of the great religious leaders of modern times and an eloquent champion of human freedom and dignity. Unlike all too many misguided religious leaders, the Pope understood that liberty, both personal and economic, is a necessary condition for the flourishing of human virtue. The Pope's commitment to human dignity, grounded in the teachings of Christ, led him to become one of the most eloquent spokespersons for the consistent ethic of life, exemplified by his struggle against abortion, war, euthanasia, and the death penalty.

Unfortunately, few in American politics today adhere to the consistent ethic of life. Thus we see some who cheered the Pope's stand against the war and the death penalty while downplaying or even openly defying his teachings against abortion and euthanasia. Others who cheered the Pope's opposition to abortion and euthanasia were puzzled or even hostile to his opposition to war. Many of these pro-life supporters of war tried to avoid facing the inherent contradictions in their position by distorting the just war doctrine which the Pope properly interpreted as denying sanction to the Iraq war. One prominent talk show host even suggested that the Pope was the enemy of the United States for this position.

In conclusion, I am pleased to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II. I would encourage those who wish to honor the memory of John Paul to reflect on his teachings regarding war and the sanctity of life and consider the inconsistencies in claiming to be pro-life but supporting the senseless killing of innocent people that inevitably accompanies militarism, or in claiming to be

pro-peace and pro-compassion but supporting the legal killing of the unborn.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding time, and I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for bringing this resolution to the floor. Might I offer my deepest sympathy to the world's family of Catholics, to those Catholics in my congressional district, the 18th Congressional District in the State of Texas, and as well allow me as a member of the ecumenical community, many different faiths, to be able to express our sympathy as well.

It is important to note what many of us believe Pope John Paul II stood for, an unyielding spine, backbone, someone who was larger than life, who believed in humanity and its safety and love and as well had the common touch, a man who understood suffering, having lost his mother at an early age of 8 years old, his older brother of scarlet fever just a few years later, and his father, who was a sergeant in the army, in 1941. He understood suffering. Yet he was the first Pope to expand his reach and understand the value of the world's religious communities coming together.

And so he paid homage to the victims of the Holocaust. He was the first Pope to visit Auschwitz and as well to visit the synagogue of Rome. In March 2000, Pope John Paul II went to the Holocaust memorial as well. And, yes, he visited Syria. Pope John Paul II was also the first Pope to visit a Muslim mosque when he traveled to Damascus, Syria. Later on, with the strength of his conscience, he said to us, war is a defeat for humanity and that wars generally do not resolve the problems for which they are fought and therefore prove ultimately futile.

So I simply have these words to say, Mr. Speaker, simply to thank Pope John Paul II for his legacy and his life, to appreciate the fact that he was willing to lift those who could not lift themselves and thank him for teaching us about the genocide in Sudan and allowing us to lift ourselves to be able to stand against it and to fight with every breath in our body to be able to live his legacy, and that is a man of peace and a man who loved humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of the House Resolution honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death. Truly, billions of people around the world, both Catholic and non-Catholic alike mourn the death of Pope John Paul II. He held one of most influential positions on Earth, but his life will be remembered as a man of the people, a man who never saw any barriers between people.

I plan to travel with the Congressional Delegation to Pope John Paul's funeral at the Vatican in Rome along with an estimated two million mourners. This man has touched the life

of so many both with his words and with his actions, that people now come together to honor this great man. Pope John Paul was born Karol Wojtyla on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland. His early life was not easy, his mother died when he was only eight years old. Three years later, he lost his older brother to scarlet fever. His father, who was a sergeant in the army, died in 1941. By the age of 20, he had lost three of his closest family members. But as he would throughout his life, he summoned his courage and his remarkable resolve to remain true to his religious upbringing. He would grow up in Poland during an era of Nazi occupation and repression. He worked as a common laborer and even as religious expression was being quelled by the Nazis he continued his Catholic teachings.

He would become the youngest bishop in modern Polish history at the age of 38 as the Archbishop of Krakow. Nine years later he was the youngest cardinal, guiding the Catholic faithful in a country that was officially atheist. He was known even then for his stance against Communism and the forces of oppression and hate. On Oct. 16, 1978 at the age of 58, John Paul II was selected to lead the Roman Catholic Church as the youngest pope of the 20th century. His relative youth allowed him to be extremely active and meet with people throughout the world. His charisma and grace allowed him to touch the hearts of people and convey a message of peace and collective humanity.

As Pope, John Paul II traveled the world to directly speak to the issues that confronted society. Whereas previous pontiffs often remained distant, never straying far from the Vatican, John Paul maintained a busy travel schedule. He completed 102 pastoral visits outside of Italy, and 144 within, visiting almost 130 countries during his 26 years as Pope. He logged more kilometers of travel than all other popes combined. His first visit as pope was to his homeland of Poland which was still beset by Communist rule. He advocated for the solidarity movement and he pushed for change, but he insisted above all else that any movement in order to be successful must be peaceful. It was Pope John Paul who aptly stated that: "Social justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create." His influence and guiding hand brought down the rule of Communism in Poland and ushered in a new era throughout Europe and indeed much of the world. I was honored to recently have meetings with both former Polish President Lech Walesa and current President Aleksander Kwasniewski and it seems clear that together with the Pope's influence Poland was able to transform from an oppressive communist country under strict Soviet control and with a weak economy to an independent and democratic country with a fast growing free-market economy. The end of communism fell like a series of dominoes in nations throughout the world and truly Pope John Paul was among the most influential in setting off these series of events.

Pope John Paul also used his travel to improve relations between the Vatican and people of other faiths. He grew up in an area of Poland where he lived next to many people of Jewish faith during the era of Nazi persecution where he saw his Jewish neighbors face brutality. As Pope he wrote and delivered a number of speeches on the subject of the Church's relationship with Jews, and often

paid homage to the victims of the Holocaust in many nations. He was the first pope to have visited Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, in 1979 and his visit to the Synagogue of Rome was the first by a pope in the history of the Catholic Church. In March 2000, Pope John Paul II went to the Holocaust memorial Yad Vashem in Israel and touched the holiest shrine of the Jewish people, the Western Wall in Jerusalem, promoting Christian-Jewish reconciliation. The Pope said at that time that Jews are "our older brothers". Pope John Paul was also the first Pope to visit a Muslim Mosque when he traveled to Damascus, Syria. He used his position of influence to bring people of all faiths together and for that we should be grateful.

At each stop he made as Pope he reiterated that we only have one lifetime to live and that we must ensure that we use this time to achieve peace instead of suffering in war. It was Pope John Paul who stated: "War is a defeat for humanity." And that "Wars generally do not resolve the problems for which they are fought and therefore . . . prove ultimately futile." His words certainly ring true for the present, as well as the past and future. Indeed, Pope John Paul II was a great man for all ages; it was he who stated: "The future starts today, not tomorrow." His presence and stature will be missed and we are right to mourn this great man. However, the Pope John Paul would be the first to tell us that the future is now and we must continue to move forward. We must all use his words and the lessons learned to help guide future generations. Because while the issues of society may change over time, the basic spirit of humanity never does.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for offering this resolution.

From the darkness, Mr. Speaker, came the words, "Be not afraid." A quarter century on, through tearful eyes, we behold the man, Karol Wojtyla, who with gentle vigor willed history toward the splendor of truth.

Born to an age of man and an era of oppression, John Paul II gave witness to all who would be free that the Author of History was too the Author of Liberty. As a secret seminarian witnessing the Nazi occupation of Poland, the Third Reich wanted him arrested. As a bishop witnessing the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe, the politburo wanted him dead. And as Holy Father witnessing the degradation of human life, the culture of death wanted him silenced.

Yet in the face of their threats, not despite them but because of them, his voice rang out all the louder and his heart beat all the stronger in love for the children of God. He battled tyranny his whole life, tyrannies of the sword and of the heart, that the world, his universal flock, might throw off the yoke of evil and embrace the love of God's truth.

Against violence, oppression, materialism and hatred, John Paul defended

the dignity of human life with a warm voice and an iron will. He was the rock upon which a generation of Catholics built their churches and the walking symbol of faith, hope and charity that fuels the Christian heart. Much has been rightly said of John Paul's role in the victory of freedom over tyranny in the East; but much more will be said, Mr. Speaker, of his eventual role in the victory of freedom over license in the West. For the culture of life is the culture of John Paul II.

In his later years, the Pope gave perhaps his most profound witness to the dignity of human life as he carried age and disease around on his back like a cross. He stumbled along the way, like his Savior, but he never put it down.

In his final days, as his long-suffering body began to fail, pilgrims came to his home at the Vatican to pray and to share this particular moment in the history of faith. And still they come. Around the world, billions of every creed are treated to photographs of John Paul as a child in Poland, as a young actor, and a priest. We see footage from his decades in Rome, the smiling face, the graceful, athletic frame, the gentle voice that roared truth to power.

It is in these images, Mr. Speaker, that the grace of his late suffering can be fully understood. He gave to his God and neighbor all that he had, all his heart, all his mind, all his soul, until there was nothing left to give but his broken, weary body which he gave with a prayer of joy and a soft, final amen.

Thus shall we remember our friend John Paul, warrior-saint, the Lion of Krakow.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, let me add my voice to the millions of Americans and people throughout the world who now mourn the loss of Pope John Paul II. He was an extraordinary man of great courage and conviction of faith. His life was consumed in sacrifice, out of love of God and love of others; and he reminded us constantly of the duty we have to the least among us, the poor, the vulnerable, the weak who have no power but the protection of those who willfully sacrifice on their behalf.

Pope John Paul II not only confronted physical deprivation but also intellectual and spiritual poverty. His constant admonishment to us, particularly those of us in power, to rebuild a culture of life is a message so desperately needed in our world. He had a heart for the youth and traveled extensively to bring a message of hope and love, saying to the young especially, act courageously and do not be afraid.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss him. America will miss him. The world will miss him. I now believe that he hears the

words, Well done, good and faithful servant.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our Democratic leader and my friend and neighbor who will be one of the leaders of the congressional delegation leaving for Rome.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me this time and for his kind words. It is indeed a privilege to be part of a delegation to the funeral of the Holy Father. I also thank the distinguished chairman of the committee. I know how much he respected and admired the Holy Father. I thank him for his leadership in helping us express our condolences as well.

Mr. Speaker, my mother used to always say of John Paul II, "He is a saint walking the Earth." Indeed, he was. It is in that spirit and with deep sadness at his passing but with great thanks and joy for his life of good works that I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Pope John Paul II.

□ 1500

Pope John Paul II was one of the great spiritual and humanitarian leaders of our time. His deeds, his words and his indomitable spirit of love were a blessing to this world, and the entire world mourns his passing.

Again, I am very honored to be part of the congressional delegation to the Pope's funeral on Friday, and I hope that our delegation can help convey the thoughts, prayers, and deep sympathies of the American people on his passing. We will be pleased to join our President in doing that.

Pope John Paul II was a man of God, and he was a man of the people. He was passionate in his commitment to doing God's work here on Earth. St. Francis of Assisi, who was the patron saint of my city of San Francisco, said, "Preach often, sometimes use words." The life of John Paul II was a sermon he preached every day by example. His ministry fed the hungry, cared for the sick, and invited the stranger. He was a champion for the poor, promoting justice and economic development around the world. His work built on the legacy of Pope Paul VI, not his immediate predecessor, except for 33 days his predecessor, who believed, "If you want peace, work for justice." Pope John Paul II helped to bring justice and healing to the relationship between Catholics and Jews, and I know how important that is to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS). His commitment to nonviolence and to peace on Earth was heartfelt and steadfast.

With a concern and caring for all of God's children, John Paul II reached out to people of all ages, nationalities, and faiths. As we all know, he traveled to so many countries in his service as Pope, and he spent more than 2 years in his papacy outside of Rome. I like to say that he was aptly named John

Paul: John, the Apostle of love, and Paul, who preached the Gospel to such a wide range of people in the earliest days of Christendom. In doing so himself, Pope John Paul II brought the redemptive message of the Catholic Church to places it had never been, and he inspired millions of individuals who saw in his conviction and in his example the light of God.

He had a special bond with the youth of the world. I remember when I met him in San Francisco when he came there, and it was so exciting for us to welcome the Holy Father, and when he landed at Crissey Field in a helicopter, it was so dramatic. And when I met him, our Archbishop, Archbishop Quinn, said, as we were chatting, "Your Holiness, I have confirmed the Congresswoman's children." And he said, "That's good, that's good." And he said, "Your Holiness, I have confirmed the Congresswoman's five children." And he said, "That's very good, that's very good."

And as I said, he had a special bond with the youth of the world. He spoke with them as a spiritual leader, but also as a teacher and as a friend. The guidance he offered to today's youth will benefit the world for years to come.

Likewise, his influence on world events will be felt for generations. John Paul II played an enormous role in the fall of communism and ending the Cold War, and that has been mentioned here. He was a man of peace. As a priest in Poland, he waged a persistent struggle for nearly three decades against the Communist Government over the building of churches and the right of his people to worship as they choose. He continued that work as Pope, inspiring the Polish people and the Solidarity movement, and offering spiritual strength to others working to free themselves from Communist regimes.

In his later years, the Pope offered the world a very different but significant form of inspiration. Suffering from Parkinson's disease and with failing health, he struggled until the end to share God's word. He taught us about the dignity of every individual and showed us that we must always seek to make a difference on this Earth.

It is written in the Book of Genesis, "Thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age." John Paul II is with our Father now. We were blessed that he preached peace in this world for so long.

As we honor his memory, as we sing his praises, we must also heed his message. The Catholic Church recently gave us a guide, the compendium of Catholic social justice, for how we can address some of the issues the previous speaker talked about, addressing the needs of the poor, the vulnerable, and the weak. President Bush mentioned that when he gave His Holiness the Presidential Medal of Freedom, he mentioned that he had championed the

work for the poor, the vulnerable, the needy, he said, and the weak. We must do that in our work here. It would then be an appropriate honor and remembrance for the life, leadership, service, and holiness.

My mother said, as I said in the beginning, he is a saint walking this Earth. Anyone who was ever in his presence knew they were in the presence of a holy man. Because he lived and we observed him, we have a responsibility to follow his lead.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding me this time, and my colleagues who are so eloquently expressing the impact that Pope John Paul II has had on all of us and on the world, and hopefully on all of us here in this House.

He became Pope in 1979, when I was a teenager. In a quiet Catholic community, one that was quietly prayerful, quietly service-oriented, but quietly, he inspired us not to be so quiet. He inspired us to change that quiet prayer into exuberant song. He inspired us to get involved, to step out of the churches, step out of our own communities, and give more direct service, become more directly involved with those afflicted with illness, with those afflicted in poverty, with those with other problems, emotional concerns, and active the Church became.

I could not even describe the difference in the church I grew up in in Pittsburgh from 1979 to today, inspired by Pope John Paul II. Young people, everyone mentions that the Pope has a very close connection with young people. World Youth Days around the world were so widely attended from children around the world that it gives me great hope for the future of the world.

A young priest at my church, who is now probably about 33 or 34, had taken a delegation to the World Youth Day last year or the year before and had come back with a pretty amazing story. In this world of corporal comfort, one of the young men in the group had complained to him that it was so crowded, he had to stand next to a pile of stinking garbage in the hot sunshine. And he was waiting and waiting and smelling the garbage and waiting and thinking, why am I here? This is so uncomfortable. And then finally the Holy Father took the podium. It was raining, it was wet. But when the Holy Father took the podium, the sun shown through. This young man conveyed to my priest what I think was the Holy Father's point all along. This world is not perfect. This world can be made more perfect through our action, our prayer, our involvement. This young man, I am sure to this day, is a very faithful and active Catholic and a faithful and active servant, one whose attitude that day was transformed from himself to generosity and interest

in others, one that I hope we all take as his legacy.

A man who grew up in such a difficult time, in a difficult oppressive time, in an area where obviously his faith was not quite permitted, was such an inspiration to world leaders, Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, working hand in hand with them because he understood that the fundamental connection between redemption and human freedom was real, and he needed to participate. He showed us that every human has value. His own personal suffering is a testament to the vital sacredness of all human life.

He called special attention to the unborn. We still struggle in not paying enough attention to the unborn. Just recently we demonstrated, unfortunately, how our society does not pay close enough attention or concern to the incapacitated, the infirm. I hope this reflection today will help us do so.

The Pope said that each man in his suffering can also become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ. We are wise to remember him, his legacy, especially his teaching, through his powerful words, but mostly through his powerful actions.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BEAUPREZ).

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for all of his leadership, especially for bringing this resolution to the floor today, but for all of his leadership throughout the years. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) as well for his leadership, similarly a champion of justice and a compassionate individual who speaks with tremendous moral clarity.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened today, as a lifelong Catholic, at the thought of the death of our great Holy Father, John Paul II. As I stand in the well of this Chamber, it also strikes me as curiously ironic that we come to commemorate the life of John Paul II, who spoke with enormous moral clarity, and I stand staring at the image of Moses, the first of our lawgivers, who defined moral clarity for us in those early beginnings of civilization and humanity.

The early years for John Paul II were a journey of hardship and sacrifice. Born Karol Wojtyla in a small town outside of Krakow in 1920, the same year of my mother's birth, by the way, he was the second of two sons. His mother died when he was but 9 years old, and by the time he was 21, he had lost his dear brother and his father as well.

Young Karol found himself alone. He worked in a rock quarry and then a chemical factory to earn a living and to avoid being deported to Nazi Germany. To fulfill a wish that his father had, young Karol began preparing to give his life to the Lord by studying at an underground, clandestine seminary in Krakow, doing so in secret to avoid the wrath of the Nazis. His faith and

belief in God eventually led him to the very chair of St. Peter. As the head of the Holy See, a position he held for more than 26 years, he led his flock longer than any other Pope and certainly longer than any in recent memory.

I was always humbled by this man who was able to exert so much influence on the politics of our world and the direction of mankind, yet had the ability to do so with such a quiet, gentle hand.

One must look no further than the collapse of the Soviet Empire for an example of how much influence he had. While no one person can claim that they were the lone force behind the collapse of communism, there should be no argument that the extent to which John Paul II played in defining it and defeating it was enormous. Along with another great man of his era, Ronald Reagan, they confronted their adversaries face to face and helped defeat this evil, and did so without war.

□ 1515

This man of God, who was once an avid outdoorsman, who skied and hiked the Italian mountainside, who aggressively traveled the globe more than any other Pope, became almost like a family member to everyone in the world, regardless of faith.

He embraced the modern media. John Paul entered the homes and touched the hearts of countless millions with his message of love, truth, devotion, and courage. He was unwavering in his defense of all life, limitless in his forgiveness, including of his own would-be assassin, and without peer as he embraced all the world's faiths and humbly asked forgiveness from our Jewish brethren for a Church and a world that did too little for too long.

Those of us privileged to serve in this hallowed Chamber have the opportunity to meet presidents, prime ministers, kings and queens, the famous and the fortunate of the world. Twice I was in the presence of this Pope, in 1993 in Denver and at the Vatican in 1995.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the essence of this humble man from Krakow transcended humanity. His essence emanated peace, holiness and a sense that surrounding him was a glimpse to all of us of our Creator's promise for eternity. Without so much as a single word, his spirit overwhelmed all who witnessed his being.

"Be not afraid" became the motto of his remarkable Papacy. Inspired by his commitment to peace, freedom, compassion for the poor and oppressed and for a culture of life, may we also carry on his legacy of truth in our very own lives.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to my friend, the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), a member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member and my good friend for yielding me time;

and I rise, of course, in support of this resolution, as have all my colleagues.

Pope John Paul was an exceptional person. While one would expect all kinds of accolades to come at this time, the accolades that come for him are truly heartfelt and truly deserved.

I had the occasion to meet him my very first year in Congress in 1989 in the Vatican. There is a picture that was taken of us talking. It looks like we are in very serious talk, and I am opening my mouth and speaking with him. People have always said to me when they see that picture, My goodness, what were you saying to the Pope?

The truth is that those of us that were in the first row, the Pope is moving along shaking our hands. He shook my hand. I said to him, I am Congressman ELLIOT ENGEL from New York. He looked at me and smiled and said, God bless America, and moved on to the next person. That is the remembrance I have of him.

He certainly was a compassionate man, someone who really cared about the people. Of course, he was the first non-Italian Pope in nearly 500 years. I had the occasion just a couple of weeks ago to visit Krakow, Poland, where he came from and where he did his ministry in his early years; and the people there, of course, have special, warm feelings for him.

I want to mention, as so many of my colleagues have, the Pope's tremendous gestures of reconciliation with the Jewish community, both in terms of anti-Semitism and going to Israel and having the Vatican and Israel establish diplomatic relations. He was a person that not only spoke his mind, but he put into play practical steps; and certainly the Church was on record as opposing, actively opposing, anti-Semitism under his watch.

So on behalf of my constituents and on behalf of the people of New York and on behalf of the American people, I just want to extend, first of all, my heartfelt condolences to everyone who is mourning, and all of us are mourning the Pope, and say that his life has truly touched all of us, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. He is a man that we will always remember and one who we will certainly always miss.

I also take my hat off to this great tribute that this House is now giving by passing this resolution to honor Pope John Paul II.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) is recognized for such time as he may consume.

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues and the millions, if not billions, of people throughout the world in celebrating the life of His Holiness

Pope John Paul II, and support the resolution and thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for presenting it.

Mr. Speaker, no one at the time in 1978 expected Cardinal Wojtyla to be elected the Keeper of the Keys to the Church. In his election as Pope, John Paul II became the first non-Italian Pope in 405 years of Papal history.

John Paul II was truly the People's Pope. Throughout his Pontificate, John Paul II traveled the world, visiting over 115 countries on 170 trips. It was with the people that Pope John Paul II connected the most. He called upon the world to embrace freedom and human dignity. In doing so, the Pope will be remembered for his role as peacemaker, instrumental in the fall of communism in Europe and the liberation of his own native Poland.

But the Pope also called on the world's religions to open their doors to each other. Drawing from his own experiences in Nazi-occupied Poland, the Pope advocated interfaith dialogue. He became the first Pope to enter a synagogue and embraced the leaders in Islam. His work to expand communication between the faiths has brought together a generation of the devoted, and our world is a better place for it.

During an open-air mass in St. Peter's Square in 1998, the Pope asked of himself, Have you been a diligent and vigilant master of the Church? Have you tried to satisfy the expectations of the faithful of the Church and also the hunger for truth that we feel in the world outside the Church?

Although he did not answer then, we can answer for him today. Yes, yes, you have.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 3 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the distinguished majority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for yielding me time to speak on this important issue.

As has been said many times on the floor today, we celebrate the life of a man who truly changed the world. If I were going to start a list of people who freed other people in the 20th century, I would put the names of Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Ronald Reagan, and John Paul II at the beginning of that list.

This is a man whose life defied all logic and reason, because his life was about something bigger than logic and reason. His life was about faith, and faith is bigger than those things. If you wrote this individual's story in a book as a novel, it would seem too unreasonable to be the subject of that novel.

Born in an obscure part of Poland, he resisted the Nazi occupation of his country and led a resistance that exceeded anything we could imagine as the leader of the Church in Poland under the Soviet Union. All of us who were thinking about world events or even were just amazed at what was

happening in the world have to remember that first trip back behind the Iron Curtain in 1980, and seeing tens and hundreds of thousands of people come to see this individual, defying their government as he defied their government, and the sudden realization to most of us in the West that there was something going on behind the Iron Curtain and in the Soviet Union and particularly in Eastern Europe that we really had not realized to be as big as it was.

This is an individual who, to my amazement, was seen by more people than any other person who has ever lived. As you think about the quarter of a century of his leadership of the Church, the tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands and even millions of people that would see John Paul II at one time, more people saw him than ever saw anybody else in the history of the world.

His impact was great. His leadership was strong, his reaching out to people of all faiths, particularly his ecumenical reach to all Christians. As a Baptist, I appreciate the leadership of this Pope. He reached out to all Christian faiths, but he also reached beyond Christian faiths to people of all faiths as no Pope ever had before.

We celebrate his life. He stood for something bigger than the tangible things that we so often think about and deal with. It is a great honor to be able to stand here on the floor of the House where people reflect on freedom every day, and reflect on the life of this man who did so much to extend freedom of all kinds, with the freedom of religion being the most important of those, to so many people around the world.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding on our side, may I just say that for the last hour you have heard an outpouring of genuine affection and respect and admiration for a great spiritual leader. These were not empty phrases. These were heartfelt thoughts and expressions of profound respect for a person who in a profound way has changed our world for the better.

In concluding, I again want to thank my friend for crafting this brilliant and moving resolution on which we are about to vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his usual superb cooperation, and I wish to associate myself with his remarks in closing.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 190, a measure honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, and expressing profound sorrow on his death. It is with great honor that I stand here today to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II and recognize his contributions to the causes of freedom, human dignity, and peace.



The leadership the Holy Father displayed during his 26-year tenure as Supreme Pastor of the Roman Catholic Church helped to shape our moral conscience. His fight to end human rights abuses and his opposition to communism not only influenced the Catholic community, but the world community. He was a defender of the faith whose leadership during a pivotal time was profound. I am truly awed by the life of the Holy Father.

Born Karol Jozef Wojtyla, Jr. in 1920, Pope John Paul II was the second son of Karol Wojtyla, Sr. and Emilia Kaczorowska Wojtyla. Karol, Sr. was a retired officer for the Polish Army as well as a tailor, and Emilia was a schoolteacher. Pope John Paul II repeatedly demonstrated his unique ability to form friendships that crossed the social norms of the time. Although his hometown of Wadowice, Poland was wrought with anti-Semitism, Pope John Paul II and his family did not share in that hatred. He was the first Pope to visit a synagogue and the first to visit a memorial in nearby Auschwitz honoring victims of the Holocaust. His Holiness was also the first Pope to visit a mosque.

Shortly after his father's death in 1941, Pope John Paul II attended an underground seminary in Krakow, where he was eventually ordained in 1946. His powerful compassion and faith carried him quickly up the ranks of the Church as he was named the auxiliary bishop of Krakow in 1958. He was instrumental to the Vatican Council II deliberations in 1962, which encouraged diversity in language and practice of the Catholic faith in order to facilitate the inclusion of laymen in worship while also condemning anti-Semitism around the world. The profound respect he enjoyed throughout the Catholic community led to his election as Pope after the death of Pope John Paul I in September 1978, making him the first Slavic Pope in history.

Less than a year after being named Pope, John Paul II returned to his native Poland and forcefully supported the Polish Solidarity movement and opposed communism. His insistence that no system of government override religious beliefs gave hope to people of faith throughout the former Soviet Union that reforms would take place. The courage and determination that he displayed in opposition to a world power reflected the strength of his convictions and his willingness to stand up to an institutional force that challenged the beliefs of the church.

Pope John Paul II was an indomitable figure despite increasing infirmities. Though he survived an assassination attempt in 1981, his health was never quite the same. However, his warmth and compassion shone brightly to all who met him and quickly endeared him to young people around the world. He is said to have been seen by more people than anyone else in history, exemplifying his connection to ordinary people. He was an unwavering moral leader whose power and appeal derived from the way he lived his life. He demonstrated this when he prayed for his would-be assassin.

Pope John Paul II was also an intellectual, a pragmatist, and a scholar who was a defender of liberty. His charisma and his ability to lead were intertwined with his status as the "People's Pope." He forged a bond with people of all faiths by projecting his warmth and compassion beyond his flock. Pope John Paul II's life provided strong moral leadership during a pivotal time in history that enabled the

fall of communism and the victory of liberty. The world was truly blessed to have Pope John Paul II.

Mr. Speaker, during his 26 years as pontiff, Pope John Paul II spread the Catholic faith with visits to over 115 countries. His gift for uniting those of different beliefs earned him Man of the Year honors from Time Magazine in 1994, and his popularity among both Catholics and non-Catholics around the world was a testament to his genuine love for humanity. His teaching of tolerance and love for thy neighbor will be a lasting legacy for this truly great religious leader.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to honor the life and work of Pope John Paul II and to offer my condolences to Catholics around the globe who mourn the death of their spiritual leader. For 26 years Pope John Paul II was a faithful Shepard to his flock and acted as a primary example of peace and justice to millions of all faiths.

Trained as an actor, Pope John Paul II used the world stage to promote his message of social justice and freedom for all of God's people. Upon his election to the Papacy, Pope John Paul made one of his many journeys home to his native Poland. It was upon that journey that the Pope defiantly preached against the oppressive tyranny of communism and promoted messages of solidarity and freedom. In uttering the simple words, "Be Not Afraid", John Paul II offered courage to hundreds across Eastern Europe to break free from the chains of communism.

Despite the illness that plagued him in the later part of his life, John Paul II never faltered in fighting against injustice and in protecting the most innocent in our society. Indeed, it was in the Pope's very public suffering that we are reminded of the dignity of every human life from conception until natural death. Mr. Speaker, today we join together to honor the life of a true servant of God. While we mourn Pope John Paul II and are filled with sorrow at his passing, we also rejoice in knowing that he has returned home to his Father.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man of the Catholic faith and a hero to those of all faiths. I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Pope John Paul II. I join the millions of people around the world that have been mourning the loss of this great man and great spiritual and moral leader who stood firmly for the oppressed, for the downtrodden, and for people of all faiths around the world.

Pope John Paul II was a great man, and a strong advocate for equality. He spoke out time and time again against discrimination and injustice in all its forms. He believed in the "right to have a family and to have an adequately paying job" and that everyone should be able "to exist, preserve and develop one's own culture." His compassion for his fellow man and woman was overtly obvious.

Pope John Paul II has spread the word of God and the gospel to the world. He was the most traveled Pope in history as he brought these ideas across the globe, especially to the world's poorest people on the continents of Asia, South America, and Africa. He was the only pope to have visited a Caribbean country and has held mass in a host of Central and South American countries. In the last two decades under the Pontiff, the number of Catholics in Africa has doubled and the Pope has visited over a dozen countries on the con-

continent. He appointed nearly two dozen cardinals from Latin America and the Caribbean, including Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga of Honduras and Claudio Hummes of Brazil, and thirteen from Africa, including Francis Arinze of Nigeria.

Citing the commitment to social justice in the Old Testament, the Pope was a long-time champion of debt relief. In 1994, he called on the United States and other nations to forgive the debts of 40 of the world's poorest countries; to fight vigilantly against hunger, poverty, and disease; and to establish programs to build sound economic policies in those countries.

Though he mourned September 11th with the rest of the world, the Pope steadfastly believed that peace, not war, is the path to creating a safer world for all. He was an outspoken critic of the Iraqi war and called on international leaders to find a peaceful mechanism to address their differences.

Pope John Paul II worked to ease the centuries' old tensions between the Catholic Church and Jews. He was the first Pope to visit a concentration camp and was also the first Pope to visit a synagogue, calling Jews "our eldest brothers." He has repeatedly tried to keep the Catholic Church morally grounded in its advocacy but adaptive to changes in the world.

Not only was he a spiritual leader and warrior for civil rights of universal renown, but he was also an intellectual powerhouse. He was capable of speaking to his people in multiple languages. He wrote volumes on the philosophies of mankind and the virtues of faith.

Personally, I have always respected and admired the Pope for his humanitarianism and empathy for others. He led by example and marked a path of principle and conviction. During my second meeting in 1987 with the pontiff, I was humbled to hear his views and thoughts on drug eradication and other contemporary issues. For over a half century, he had implored the international community to think with grace, act with compassion, and behave with deep regard and respect for our fellow man.

In his many decades of service as the head of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II has done tremendous good for both the Catholic Church and the people of the world. He was a man who commanded my sincere respect, and his loss will be felt by me for many, many years to come. Pope John Paul II was a man who in death, as in life, was an inspiration and guide to us all.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing my sadness at the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. Since 1978, he piously served as the head of the Roman Catholic Church and was an inspiration to Catholics and non-Catholics across the world.

It could be said that the Pope was a true "Renaissance Man"—with a love for literature, art, and music. Once he entered the priesthood, his passion for poetry and the written word did not wane. He continued writing about issues close to his heart, including peace, oppression and spirituality.

Immediately following his inauguration, Pope John Paul II began traveling the world. He brought global attention to the communist and socialist governments of his native Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe, and called for reform and changes. During World War II, he

saw first-hand the low points of humanity's cruelty to one another and throughout his pontificate vowed to halt tyranny and hatred. His peaceful opposition to human rights violations will always be remembered and will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

He committed his life to his faith, and was instrumental in bringing attention to peace and justice, poverty and disease, and each individual's connection to one another. As a Catholic myself, I admired Pope John Paul II for his devotion to God, his involvement with global issues, and his ability to bridge gaps between the Church and its past. I join millions of others in mourning his passing.

The Holy Father will be missed, but he now joins the Father he served so dutifully during his life on earth. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution and honor this great man.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II. His life will serve as an inspiration to all those who seek to make this a more peaceable and unified world.

Born in Wadowice, Poland, Karol Wojtyla did not know the challenges that life would present to him, or that he would confront these challenges with great courage. His mother passed away when he was nine years old, followed by his brother several years later. It was during this time that his faith in God strengthened and he began his journey towards the papacy. Karol Wojtyla quietly studied to become a priest during the Nazi occupation of his beloved Poland, and in November 1946 he was ordained a priest.

During his service as a priest and later as Archbishop of Krakow, Father Wojtyla actively defied the Communist regimes that were attempting to end religious worship throughout Poland. In 1967, he was made a Cardinal and on October 16, 1978 he was elected as the 264th Pope of the Catholic Church and took the name Pope John Paul II in honor of the three pontiffs who preceded him.

During his papacy, Pope John Paul II showed the world the strength of his character that the people of Poland had known for years. In May 1981, he survived an assassination attempt and later met with his would be assassin and forgave him. This example of absolution showed the world the true nature of this man and the power of faith.

Pope John Paul II was instrumental in defeating Communist regimes throughout Eastern Europe. His support for the Solidarity Movement in Poland helped create a domino effect throughout Europe as people chose democracy over Communism.

His work to foster ecumenism throughout the world's principle religions will also be a part of his lasting legacy. Pope John Paul II was the first pope to visit the Western Wall in Jerusalem and asked for forgiveness from the Jewish people for wrongs the Catholic Church had committed against them. He also reached out to Muslims and visited with leaders of the Islamic faith.

As the most traveled Pope in history, John Paul II brought his message of hope to millions of people in 129 countries. He was also able to make a connection with the youth of the world that no other Pope had achieved. He recognized the importance of young people to not only continuing the life of the church, but also sustaining the future of our world. He championed human rights and jus-

tice for the poorest people in the developing world to the youth he met with throughout his papacy. I am hopeful that when the young people he touched with his words and actions become leaders in our world they will continue this message of hope.

Mr. Speaker, Pope John Paul II taught the world many important lessons. He taught us to forgive, to stand up for the rights of all people, and how to create change peacefully. He has touched many lives, and will continue to do so even after his passing. As we reflect on his legacy and the spiritual guidance he offered, may people of faith everywhere take guidance from the values he instilled in our world.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 190, which honors the life and achievements of Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II was a man of devout faith who used his leadership to help the poor, mediate conflicts around the world, and fight tyranny. As a man who fought both the Nazi and the Communist regime in Poland in pursuit of his own faith, he was a strong advocate for religious tolerance and freedom. His life's work is truly inspiring to all of us.

As the most traveled Pope in history, Pope John Paul II visited more than 120 countries and traveled approximately three quarter of a million miles. During these visits he worked to bring peace to regions of the world that were in conflict. He embraced the poor and the oppressed across the world by encouraging us to help those who are less fortunate.

His hope for a better world for those who had nothing should remind us all as Pope John Paul II said to "practice mercy heroically with the lowliest and the most deprived." Pope John Paul II was able to rise above political and religious conflict to deliver a message of peace, love, and faith all while promoting equality for all.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most influential Popes in modern history. Pope John Paul II was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla on May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland.

During his childhood the Pope was very athletic and an exemplary student. He had a passion for the outdoors and the theatre. In 1942 he felt a calling to the church. He was ordained a priest at the age of 26. Subsequently, he served as Archbishop of Krakow, Poland and was appointed a Cardinal.

On October 16, 1978, Cardinal Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II. He opened the door for future non-Italian Popes as he was the first since Adrian VI in 1522. He was also the first Pope of Polish ethnicity.

Pope John Paul II impacted people of all ages world wide, especially young people. Creating World Youth Day in 1986, the Pope showed his commitment to young people worldwide. His hope was to instill the values of freedom, hope; truth, and justice in youth so they could work towards bettering the future of humanity.

Religious tolerance and acceptance were Pope John Paul's core ideals. He had a profound respect for other religions. During his childhood, he had many Jewish friends and expressed a long-standing respect for the Jewish faith. He expressed sorrow for historic hostilities toward Jews and prayed at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Judaism's most Holy site. John Paul II was also the first Pope to visit a Mosque and visited more than 20 Is-

lamic countries. Pope John Paul II went to great lengths to encourage religious tolerance. In 1986 the Pope invited a diverse group of 90 religious leaders to Assisi, Italy to pray and recognize the role world religions have in promoting understanding and tolerance.

An advocate for human rights, peace and justice, the Pope was the most traveled pope in history. He visited over 120 countries in every continent except Antarctica and met with a diverse group of World Leaders. Pope John Paul II was the first Pope to meet with the President of the United States. His commitment to the love of people and the love of his religion transcended political boundaries. In 1998 Pope John Paul II became one of the first leaders to visit communist Cuba and meet with Fidel Castro.

Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005.

Pope John Paul's II captivating personality and commitment to the church and humanity ingratiated him into the hearts of millions of people worldwide. The members of the House of Representatives remain mindful of John Paul's II message of tolerance, hope, peace, and justice.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II, who traveled the world for twenty-six years and touched billions of lives. In the countries he visited, he delivered a message of peace and reminded the world about the power of love for all humanity. As the leader of the Catholic Church, he worked toward the fall of communism and spread hope to millions of oppressed people. One of the most influential figures of the modern era, this son of Poland taught us to respect human life in all forms. His legacy will be felt for generations to come. His actions in life and his strength in death have inspired people of all faiths. I join with billions around the world who mourn the loss and celebrate the life of this great man.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn that the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, passed away on April 2nd. This extraordinary man touched millions across the world with his dynamic, courageous and compassionate leadership. I know that we in the United States join a global community in mourning this great and blessed man.

From his humble beginnings in Poland, Pope John Paul II became the first non-Italian pontiff in 455 years and one of the most beloved figures in recent memory to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The first pope to visit a synagogue and a mosque, he will be remembered as a spiritual leader who worked tirelessly to bring people of all faiths together. His papacy helped stem the tide of communism in Poland and Eastern Europe. His ministry on behalf of the poor and the sick is well known by worshipers worldwide.

One of the most moving moments I've ever experienced was seeing the pope speak to hundreds of thousands of Cubans at an outdoor mass in Havana in 1998. He delivered a message of religious tolerance, social justice, and human rights in the country of Fidel Castro. His powerful presence and words in Revolutionary Square were greeted by thunderous applause from the Cuban people. It was a special event I'll never forget.

During his historic first visit to the United States in 1979, the pope famously told the crowd in Boston that "the pope is your friend." Now we say goodbye to a man of hope, a

man of faith and a man of dignity. Today we say goodbye to our friend. May he rest in peace.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join San Antonio and the world in mourning the passing of Pope John Paul II, a great religious and humanitarian leader.

Pope John Paul II was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla on May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. He excelled in school as a brilliant student and athlete, gaining a passion for religion, poetry, and the theatre.

He was ordained in 1946, assuming priestly duties in 1949 as chaplain to university students at Krakow's St. Florian's Church. He rose steadily through the church hierarchy, becoming the auxiliary bishop of Krakow in 1958 and was later appointed archbishop of Krakow in January 1964.

During this time he made a name for himself as a formidable theologian and staunch defender of the Catholic faith as he taught at the Krakow Seminary and Catholic University of Lublin.

He was later elevated to cardinal in June 1967, and elected as Pope John Paul II on October 16, 1978. He proved to be one of the most energetic and hard-working men ever to occupy the Papal See, visiting more than 120 countries, delivering more than 2,000 public addresses, and issuing a plethora of encyclicals and apostolic letters.

Pope John Paul II was the third longest serving pontiff in history, serving for 26 years. His passing marks the end of one of the longest and most widely respected reigns in papal history.

A man of the cloth, Pope John Paul II was also a man of the people. His teachings, spiritual guidance, and leadership came from his belief in peace and justice and the goodness of mankind. It was that belief that guided him as he journeyed around the world reaching out to people of all faiths.

He was a world leader and respected statesman who challenged communism and advocated democracy, and who always championed the causes of the poor and our great responsibility to them.

Pope John Paul II was a blessing to this world, and though he has left us now, his spirit, his love, and his lessons should guide us for a lifetime.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Rome 1993. I knew the City. Except for the machine-gun carrying Carabinieri at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, and the cars whizzing by me on the autostrada at 150 kilometers per mile, Rome seem strangely familiar. Perhaps it was the ten years studying Latin, following the exploits of Caesar, Veni, Vedi, Vici, except Caesar never had to drive his chariots in rush hour. Nor did anyone dare crowd his style along the Appian Way. Everywhere I looked cars were bumper on bumper, I did a sidewalk survey and noticed that about seven of ten cars parked along any given street had body damage. Rome was very personal like that. My friend Judy and I had come to visit the Eternal City to study the cradle of our faith. As we toured, it became clear that just as Washington is a monument to Presidents, Rome is a celebration of the Papacy.

Prior to leaving for Rome I had lunch with an old friend, Dr. Robert White, the famed neurosurgeon and physician to the Pope. I told him I was soon going to be visiting Rome. He made a call to his friend at the Jesuit's

headquarters in Rome and was able to arrange for a special visit to the Vatican, including attendance at a general Papal audience, Judy and I, and about five thousand other persons.

Minutes before we left the hotel for our Vatican tour, I received a call that there had been a change of plans. Judy and I were to come immediately to a certain entrance off St. Peter's Square. Just in case I was going to meet someone I always wanted to meet, I brought with me a ceremonial presentation of a Key of the City of Cleveland, although they changed the locks when I left the Mayor's office. When we arrived, we were greeted by Swiss guards. Then we were ushered into the large hall where the general audience was held. It had the air of carnival, colorful, noisy, boisterous. Slowly we were escorted past one jammed pew after another to the front pew, *et introibo ad altare Dei* . . .

A priest in a simple black cassock, a former resident of Milwaukee, who followed American politics, approached smilingly, "Mayor Kucinich?" I accepted the honorific though it had been thirteen years since I left Cleveland City Hall, concluding my own personal experience with Manichean struggles with the forces of power and light. The years after City Hall were, well, different. Except for brief service in City Council, filling an unexpired term, I could not win an election to save (or lose) my soul.

"Yes. We're very excited to be here," I said. The priest, now a personal assistant to the Pope responded: "We're really glad you could make it." Wait a minute. I waited my whole life just to get into close proximity to the Pope and one of his assistants is telling me he's glad? "The Holy Father will be here shortly. There will be a general audience. Afterwards, people will file out and then he will come over to talk with you."

That is the moment I knew I was about to meet Pope John Paul II. I was lost in thought. Judy feigned panic "Omigosh," she kept saying over and over.

The General Audience is something like Cleveland's West Side Market on a Saturday, except many a pilgrims dancing, playing music, and singing, while wearing the colorful costumes of their native lands.

The Pope enters to wild applause. He sits on a simple throne and after about an hour and a half his right hand is supporting his head. I thought how physically demanding it was for him.

The General Audience ended. The Pope had brief discussions with a group of clergy. He then walked in our direction. He stopped and spoke to two other couples. Then he approached.

He looked at Judy, and greeted her first. He then turned to me. "Is this your wife?" he asked, in English. She wasn't. Neither of us were married. I wasn't going to lie to the Pope. Talk about setting yourself up to go to Hell . . .

"A friend, Holy Father."

He nodded.

"Holy Father, I come from Cleveland. . . ."

"Yes, we were talking about you earlier, about your public service," he said.

"I remember Cleveland."

Indeed the Pope had visited Cleveland, as Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, at St. Stanislaus Church in the Slavic Village Neighborhood. One of his closest friends was John Cardinal Krol, whose family came from St. Stanislaus

Parish. There was a great joy in Cleveland when he was chosen Pope. The Polish community brought together 10,000 people in Public Hall to celebrate in prayer and song. We spoke for a few minutes about how the same Polish community was instrumental in my election as Mayor in 1977.

"Holy Father, I have a special gift I would like to give you, a Key to the City of Cleveland. It was one of the last Keys from my Administration. I supposed he received a thousand like it, but he accepted it and an accompanying certificate graciously as several cameras flashed around us. He turned to Judy and he thanked her for coming.

Then my life changed. John Paul II put his hand on my head. He looked into my eyes and said in a Polish-accented English I have come to know so well in my own neighborhood: "My son, I give you my special blessing." I felt something at that moment. Whether it was a connection with his charisma or grace, I felt something, a different energy field, a buzz, my imagination? A sense of peace? I felt something. Later I would mark that bright encounter as one when conditions began to change for the better in my own life.

I thanked him in Polish. He smiled.

He invited us to visit again. Ever the altar boy, as he was about to leave, I offered to him a prayer in Latin: "Emitte lucem tuam et veritatem tuam." Send forth your light and your truth. It was said as an affirmation of his spiritual leadership, his own quest to bring peace to the world.

He said goodbye. Judy and I were suddenly alone in the pew. The Audience had ended.

There are millions of people the world over who felt a personal connection to John Paul II. Yet his passing may become significant not for that aspect of him which died in us, but for something within each of us that was reborn through his life.

It was the only time I would ever meet him. I have often thought back to that moment when he offered me his blessing.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the world this week suffered an immeasurable loss, and millions of men, women, and children in all corners of the globe lost their champion and a voice for those who do not have a platform to speak for themselves. His Holiness John Paul II, Bishop of Rome, head of the Catholic Church, and the spiritual leader of nearly one billion people, was a man who made an immeasurable difference in the path taken by the world in the last quarter of the Twentieth Century and the first part of the Twenty-First Century.

His quiet strength, determination, and belief in the power of non-violent opposition were instrumental, along with the efforts of President Ronald Reagan and many other leaders around the world, in bringing an end to the old communist regimes which had become entrenched in the capitals of Europe. He was a man who had developed an insurmountable inner strength and faith which, even after the loss of his entire family during the early years of his life and the perils he faced under the heel of Nazism and communism, was unshakable. His love and work on behalf of the Catholic Church and of the people of his native Poland—indeed, of men, women, and children of all faiths and all walks of life—were the driving force in his rise to become a bishop and archbishop in Krakow, Poland, and ultimately his election as pontiff.

I was never fortunate to meet the Holy Father myself, but I have met many individuals who had such an opportunity. In talking with them, and in reading the countless reports of people around the world who were in his presence, it is clear to see how truly remarkable this man was and how moving a meeting with him could be. He was a man of hope, a man of vision, and a man of unceasing faith, and in his 26-year papacy those qualities were shared with peoples and nations around the world in his over 100 trips away from Vatican City.

Mr. Speaker, there are many times in life where we refer to someone's character and manner of living their life as signs that they are a saint. Karol Wojtyla was such a person who may indeed receive sainthood for his work—a young man from Poland who early on dedicated his life to his faith and his church and who grew into Pope John Paul II, a man who never lost that dedication and who impacted countless people around the world. His life and his work will be discussed and, remembered far into the future, and it is my hope his life and his leadership serve as an inspiration for all of us for many years to come.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, in my estimation, the Pope was instrumental in helping to bring down communism. His words in Poland, "Don't be afraid," resonated throughout the world against tyranny, despotism and injustice.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Pope John Paul II, a moral, political, and religious leader who helped re-shape the Catholic Church and the entire world.

The story of a small town boy from Poland, who grew up to become one of the longest serving and most influential Popes in history, is an inspiration. He survived the destruction of his homeland first by Nazi invaders, and then by Communist occupiers, despite his strong commitment to a religion those powers despised.

During World War II, Pope John Paul II was forced to attend an underground seminary to further his religious education, and as a priest he needed to be constantly mindful of Poland's communist regime. Yet, when he was asked if he feared retribution from the government, he replied, "I'm not afraid of them. They are afraid of me."

Once he became Pope, however, His Holiness was able to come to the aid of others fighting for freedom and human rights. His support for the Solidarity movement in Poland and opposition to communists and dictators around the globe remade our world. When he became Pope in 1978, communism had a stranglehold on Eastern Europe and was on the march around the globe. As Pope, he encouraged opposition movements and gave hope and guidance to millions in their struggle. Thanks in large part to his leadership, in 2005, at the close of his papacy, communism is confined to the dustbin of history, and it is freedom that is on the march.

Not only did Pope John Paul II lead political change, but he encouraged moral change as well. In 1981, when a Turk named Mehmet Ali Agca shot the Pope twice in an assassination attempt, the Pope later went to the cell of the man who tried to kill him, and personally forgave him. By both preaching and practicing forgiveness, Pope John Paul II demonstrated the enormous potential of human kindness.

In a time when many leaders look to the polls and test political winds for guidance, Pope John Paul II stood unflinching at the center of the most controversial moral debates of our time, and held firm, while always supporting the sanctity and dignity of human life. His presence will be sorely missed, but his accomplishments will long be relished.

May God bless his soul.

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 190, which honors the heroic life and historic pontificate of Pope John Paul the Second.

For over a quarter century, John Paul the Second provided powerful, charismatic, and effective leadership for the world's one billion Catholics. But his legacy will forever reach far beyond the boundaries of faith or nationality.

In the faithful service of God, he confronted evil and injustice wherever he found them, from the Nazism and Communism that gripped his beloved Poland to the hunger, suffering, and poverty that continues to afflict the world.

He affirmed life through his teachings and through his example. He lived vigorously and inquisitively—and he confronted suffering and death with courage and serenity.

Today, we mourn his passing—while celebrating with thanksgiving the powerful and eternal spiritual model he left for us all.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for this resolution and my deep regret of the recent passing of Pope John Paul II. I also extend my special sympathy to the more than one billion Catholics around the world and the more than 66 million Catholics in the United States.

Pope John Paul II was one of the most significant leaders of our time. He worked tirelessly to promote the basic freedoms and dignities shared by all humanity. He was instrumental in serving as a catalyst for the fall of the Soviet Union and the emancipation of millions from totalitarian rule. More broadly, he worked in public and in private to persuade world leaders to respect their citizens' basic human rights. The Pope consistently embraced the poor and the oppressed masses of the world, and urged governments to take care of the needs of all its citizens.

One right of particular importance to John Paul II was freedom of worship. Ministering to Catholic and non-Catholic alike, the Pope took unprecedented steps on behalf of the Catholic Church to promote religious freedom for all citizens, regardless of their particular religious belief. To that end, he became the first Pope to visit a synagogue and a mosque, and made numerous public pronouncements committing the Vatican to upholding religious tolerance.

As ranking member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I met John Paul II during a 2003 trip to the Vatican, and listened to his address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In that speech he praised the work of the OSCE to encourage the recognition of religious freedoms among its member nations. He observed that maintaining a secular state while promoting the ability of individuals to worship as they choose in private "corresponds, among other things, to the demands of a healthy pluralism and contributes to the building up of authentic democracy, to which the OSCE is truly committed."

The Pope took historic steps to heal divisions between the Catholic Church and other Christian faiths. I was pleased that the Vatican

strongly supported our efforts to host the first-ever OSCE conferences on the issue of anti-Semitism. These conferences produced the "Berlin Declaration," which unambiguously condemned all forms of anti-Semitism and committed the members of the OSCE to collect and maintain statistics on anti-Semitic crimes and hate crimes, and to promote Holocaust education and remembrance programs.

In September of 2004 Archbishop of Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler, who has fought tirelessly to ensure that discrimination and racism have no place in the public dialogue, attended the OSCE's Conference on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination in Brussels. I hosted a roundtable with Cardinal Keeler and other religious leaders in Baltimore in October 2004 to discuss the conference and how we can work to prevent racism and xenophobia and promote tolerance. I wish Cardinal Keeler well as the cardinals meet in a conclave over the next several weeks to elect a new pope.

Pope John Paul II was an inspiring leader in the battle to stamp out religious discrimination and ensure that all individuals have the freedom to worship as they desire. Future generations must work to promote his legacy, so that we may one day live in a world in which no individual is denied their inalienable right to worship as they see fit.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, those of us who have lived in the era of Pope John Paul II have had the great privilege during the past twenty-six years of witnessing the important work of this great leader.

John Paul II was an extraordinary theologian, a brilliant statesman who worked ceaselessly for peace and freedom, and a brave Polish patriot. He embodied the Christian, Marian doctrine of love and mercy; millions throughout the world have been forever changed for the better by the life of Pope John Paul II.

Perhaps his most important accomplishment was lifting the ban on the devotion to the message of divine mercy as explained by our Savior directly to Sister Faustina, and the Pope's institution of Divine Mercy Sunday by the Church, as well as the canonization of Saint Faustina. Our prayers of gratitude for those great works of Pope John Paul II accompany our prayers for his eternal rest.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, people around the world of all faiths share a deep sadness for the passing of His Holiness John Paul II.

New York City mourns the loss of John Paul II with special remembrance and appreciation for the care and attention he showed our city, visiting twice as Pope and before that as Cardinal.

I was personally touched and grateful for the prayers and blessings he offered to the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, their families, and all the rescue and recovery workers who responded to Ground Zero after the attacks.

He met personally with several New York firefighters who had responded to the attacks, praying for their strength and the health of their fellow firefighters, families and fellow New Yorkers in a dark and difficult hour.

This is just one example of how Pope John Paul II was always attentive to the needs of those suffering.

His Holiness John Paul II traveled the world for twenty six years in his Papacy, delivering

a consistent message of the need for peace and the promise of hope.

Through his faith, his words, and his example in life, Pope John Paul II helped democracies to blossom and greater tolerance to flourish across the world.

Crowds of thousands will mourn the passing of Pope John Paul II in the days and weeks ahead.

I hope that in this time of sadness and reflection, we also remember the gifts that John Paul II brought into the world, celebrating his life and his ministry to the world's greatest troubles and needs.

We should keep Pope John Paul II's actions for the betterment of others always in our mind.

He fought for the dignified treatment of all people, he stood up for the downtrodden, and he worked to unify the world in common missions for greater good.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the millions of people across the globe paying public, private and prayerful tribute to the life of Pope John Paul II.

The experiences of Karol Wojtyla's youth and priesthood in Poland created a unique depth of faith and empathy with the human condition perfectly suited for the times in which he led. Through the early death of his parents, he understood the fragility of life, empowering him with an unshakable devotion to the preciousness of all humanity. His young adulthood under Nazi and Soviet occupation gave him an acute understanding of oppression, inspiring him to become the most significant vessel of peaceful subversion to the forces of communism in Eastern Europe and apartheid in South Africa. His intimate exposure to the holocaust and enduring friendships with Polish Jews in his community allowed him to become a conduit of contrition and fellowship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish faith.

He was one of the most vigorous, charismatic and universally admired religious leaders in the history of the modern world. His travels, visiting 129 countries during his papacy, delivered the Christian message to every corner of the planet. His many trips, particularly to the Third World, illustrated his identification with the poor. His prolonged health struggle was a powerful example of dignity and spiritual deliverance in the face of human suffering. While on his deathbed he wrote, "I am happy, and you should be as well. Let us pray together with joy." Upon being informed of the masses of young people holding vigil outside his window, the Pope, who had worked so tirelessly advocating for the young, said: "I have looked for you. Now you have come to me. And I thank you." He reportedly looked out the window and uttered his last word: "Amen."

The life and times of Pope John Paul II constitute a portrait of greatness seemingly without precedent in modernity. Throughout his 26 years as Pope, one man, Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, spread faith, uplifted the poor, challenged political oppression, worked to heal centuries-old inter-faith rifts, and inspired billions with his quiet grace. His legacy shall endure for the ages.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of the world's most remarkable leaders of the past century, Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II was special not only to Catholics, but also to those of us outside his

religious faith. He was a giant in the advancement of peace, spirituality and human dignity. I join the rest of the world in grieving his loss and celebrating his life.

After witnessing two of the greatest evils of the past century firsthand, Nazism and Communism, Pope John Paul II made the betterment of humanity the centerpiece of his service both to the church and to the world. Having emerged from poverty and oppression to become the first Polish Pope in history, Pope John Paul II became a beacon of good will.

Pope John Paul II worked to breakdown barriers between countries, faiths, and people. Among many other profound and groundbreaking gestures, this Pope was the first to visit a German death camp, visiting Auschwitz in 1979. There he prayed first at a Hebrew stone and second at a Polish stone.

The Pope understood that different people saw the world through different lenses but he fought the biases that long characterized the fault lines of differing cultures. He counseled us, "Peace is not built in mutual ignorance but rather in dialogue and encounter. Unity is not uniformity." Pope John Paul II built a culture of tolerance, openness and understanding. "Solidarity helps us to see the other not as an object of exploitation but as a neighbor in the banquet of life to which all are equally invited," he reminded us.

Let me close by capturing a deeply held conviction of the Pope's that I have long held dear to my own service as a Member of the United States Congress. The Pope steadily and forcefully worked towards a better future for all of mankind and he saw this future embodied in children.

He remarked, "We must all work for a world in which no child will be deprived of peace and security, of the right to grow up without fear and anxiety." The greatest challenge for any generation is to leave behind a better world for our children. This Pope truly understood and embraced this challenge.

We will miss Pope John Paul II for his spirituality, for his dignity, for his leadership and for his profound humanity. But, much as his faith indicates that his soul will live on eternally, the impetus and legacy of his principled life will live on eternally here on earth.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to His Holiness Pope John Paul II, who embodied the message of peace and compassion. John Paul II was a man of God and a missionary of faith. He led the Catholic Church through an eventful and revolutionary quarter century in the world, inspiring hundreds of millions of people in dozens of countries to throw the yoke of dictatorship and oppression, His Holiness' motivation and ethical leadership were guiding lights in a time that struggled with darkness. His vision will, very simply, be missed.

To be Pope is to not only lead the Catholic Church, but to lead the world. Pope John Paul II was an ardent protector of global human rights. His stubborn opposition to the world's dictatorships ushered in profound movements of change. At the same time, His Holiness also deeply believed in the importance of forgiveness, as he demonstrated when he forgave his would-be assassin. His courageous efforts to repair the long, tumultuous relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people opened a meaningful dialogue that will continue for decades.

Mr. Speaker, I will always remember meeting the Pope in 2003, and, in fact, I have in the center of my office wall the picture taken of the two of us in the Vatican. As I shook his hand, I deeply appreciated and admired the fact that His Holiness cared not for the color of my skin or my faith. He was a messenger of peace above all. He preached about the culture of life, the culture of faith, and the brotherhood of all mankind. He led by example and his strength was evident, even in his final days.

I share the Pope's insistence that peace and compassion can overcome the influence of evil in the world. The global community must continue to take up this message. Action is the only way to apply the teachings we acquire in life, and so I call on all individuals to live with compassion for your brothers and sisters, just as the Pope did throughout his life. He will truly be missed.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II, a true statesman and defender of faith. The Pope's death is truly a loss to the world. Many are the people he touched with his unconquerable quest for peace and equality.

Pope John Paul II brought hope to all corners of the world, to people of all faiths and backgrounds, with his powerful belief in the human spirit. I will always remember the Pope's visit to St. Louis in 1999. Having the opportunity to meet him was a special moment in my life, and his visit was one of the great moments in our region's history. He will be remembered as a tremendous spiritual leader and as a force for good in the world, and his legacy will last a long time.

He was a man who truly reflected justice and the sanctity of life in his teachings, travels and way of life. From making landmark trips to various parts of the world to strongly upholding the Christian way of life, I will always intensely admire his moral courage and integrity.

For all of humanity, Pope John Paul II has been an inspiration in a troubled world. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of H. Res. 190 and paying respect and recognition to Pope John Paul II.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sadness at the passing of Pope John Paul II and to strongly support H. Res. 190. The world has lost a great moral leader his Holiness. Pope John Paul II was a man who held profound convictions, displayed enormous compassion, and continuously reminded us of our common humanity and obligations to each other. My thoughts and prayers are with all those who mourn the passing of this remarkable spiritual voice.

As a young seminarian in 1945, Karol Wojtyla came across a small girl who had just been liberated from the Nazi labor camp in Czezarochowa, Poland. She had boarded a passing coal train and rode it until she could no longer stand the cold. That is how she ended up in the train station in the small town of Jedrzejows. It was here, sitting alone in the corner of the train station in her striped prison uniform, that Karol Wojtyla discovered her. She told him that she was trying to get to Krakow to find her parents and other family members. He provided her with food and shelter, and helped her get back to Krakow. Even as a young man, the future John Paul II had the humanity, compassion, and courage to help this young girl when others passed her by.

When he became Pope in 1978, his Holiness took his convictions and moral strength around the world. In more than 200 visits to 126 countries over the course of his papacy, Pope John Paul II exhibited charisma and a set of core beliefs that focused people worldwide on the plight of the less fortunate and the forgotten. He inspired faith not only in God, but in ourselves. He articulated a message that every person matters, and every child of God has a purpose on Earth.

This philosophy was writ large when it came to world affairs. Just eight months after his inauguration, Pope John Paul II returned to his native Poland, still under communist rule, and reminded the massive crowds—and the authoritarian leaders who oppressed them—of their fundamental, God-given human rights. By supporting the Solidarity movement within Poland, he helped to break the back of the authoritarian communists in Poland and then the rest of Western Europe. Pope John Paul II was a catalyst for change at a key moment in history, and millions of people live more freely today due to his efforts. He always believed in, and never stopped fighting for, a world in which people were free from tyranny, poverty, and war.

On that first visit to Poland in 1979, Pope John Paul II offered a prayer: "Spirit," he said "come and renew the face of the earth." Let us renew that prayer today. There is still too much suffering in this world, too much oppression, poverty and abuses of human rights. His Holiness Pope John Paul II would want us to continue doing our best, individually, and collectively, to address these challenges. There are many lessons he taught to me, so much to draw from his remarkable life. Above all, let us remember this: one person can change the world. He showed us that as Pope, yes. But he also showed it in 1945, when he changed the world for Edith Zierer. With faith we can renew the face of the earth. With his faith Karol Wojtyla changed lives. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we need to remember to start today by extending the hand of human kindness to our fellow humans, just as that young seminarian did at the end of the Second World War a half century ago for Edith Zierer.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of El Paso, Texas join with Catholics and people of faith and compassion around the world in expressing their profound grief at the death of a great man, Pope John Paul II. I am grateful to have the opportunity to join with my colleagues today to give thanks for Pope John Paul II's many contributions to mankind and to express our deep sorrow at his passing.

A small-town boy from Poland who became the first non-Italian to assume the pontificate in over 400 years, Pope John Paul II expanded the Church and welcomed into its faith millions of souls around the world. At the same time, he was an unfailing advocate for the poor, weak, and vulnerable, a strong voice for global peace, and a great champion for the sanctity of life.

Through his unprecedented travels and many sermons and writings, Pope John Paul II awakened in people—from Asia to Africa and from the former Soviet Union to Latin America—the innate human desire to shake off the yoke of autocracy and social inequity. By the power of his faith and charisma, he empowered the oppressed to seek freedom and demand human rights. Also, at a time of

global turbulence and uncertainty, his words and actions provided an essential moral deterrent to Communism.

Mr. Speaker, the world has been truly blessed by the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I join with fellow Catholics around the world in mourning the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. The world has seen the passing of a great man dedicated to peace throughout the world. His actions reflected his preaching of love, healing and forgiveness, advocating for peace and reaching out to other faith traditions. Despite turmoil and controversy, he held fast to his beliefs, gaining the respect of many around the world, even those who did not agree with him. His teachings will be remembered by millions and his influence will guide world leaders for years to come.

Throughout his ministry, he remained firm in his beliefs, leading by word and deed, fearless in his efforts to spread the Gospel of Christ. He believed in the inalienable right and dignity of the human person from conception through the moment of death. He was unafraid to shape world events, speaking passionately for peace and advocating for human rights. From his early years during the Nazi occupation of Poland where he risked his life to protect Polish Jews from persecution to his forgiveness of his would-be assassin, he has led by example, in faith and humility.

His steadfast support of the Solidarity movement in his homeland of Poland provided hope and encouragement to the Polish people and led to peaceful government reforms that precipitated the collapse of communism in Poland and the eventual fall of the Soviet Union, bringing freedom to millions of people. As these events were unfolding, Pope John Paul II was also reaching out to other parts of the world, using his influence to bring about change.

Through his efforts, he helped reduce tensions between world leaders, advocating for peace and justice. He sought to heal divisions across the different faith traditions, promoting reconciliation and dialogue between members to further understanding and respect for all people.

Pope John Paul II traveled all over the world. For millions, his visits would be the only opportunity to see a pope in person. Despite his afflictions of arthritis and Parkinson's disease, the Holy Father continued to travel the world, bringing hope and encouragement to the millions still oppressed by tyranny, hunger, disease and despair.

Pope John Paul II was especially dear to the people of Guam. He was the only Pope to visit Guam and he mesmerized our people with his dignity, kindness and sincerity. From his first words upon his arrival, spoken in the native Chamorro language, and throughout his short visit, his presence brought a spiritual renewal to the island's Catholics, many of whom camped overnight in streets and parking lots near the plaza where he was to say Mass. On February 23, 1981, tens of thousands of people gathered at the Plaza de Espana in Agana, Guam, to attend the service and receive his blessing. The crowd was captivated by this gentle man who spoke passionately of his love for God and his love for humanity, praising the dedication of Catholics in Guam and Micronesia for their faithfulness while re-

minding them that their faith should be practiced in all that they do. He then took time to comfort the elderly and the sick in our hospital who were unable to attend his Mass, blessing and encouraging them with his words, "You are the strongest among all of us, who build the church through your suffering."

It was an awesome sight to see children with their parents and grandparents, religious and government leaders, gathered to welcome the Holy Father, to celebrate Mass and to bid him farewell as he departed our island.

His visit marked a turning point for Catholics in Micronesia. In 1984, three years after his visit, the Pontiff honored our island and the Chamorro people with the elevation of the Diocese of Agana to a Metropolitan Archdiocese, naming the late Bishop Felixberto C. Flores, the first Chamorro Bishop, the first Metropolitan Archbishop of Agana and appointing another Chamorro, Father Anthony S. Apuron as Auxiliary Bishop. A year later, he approved the creation of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and appointed Monsignor Tomas A. Camacho, a Chamorro and a native of Saipan, as its first Bishop.

Also in 1984, the Holy Father announced the beatification of Padre Diego Luis de San Vitores, the Jesuit priest who brought Christianity to Guam and was later martyred for baptizing the child of a Chamorro chief. Over two hundred people from Guam went on the pilgrimage to Rome to attend the beatification ceremony.

Although he would not return to the island before his passing, his visit will never be forgotten. From the street named in his honor, Chalan Santo Papa Juan Pablo Dos, to the bronze statue erected to commemorate his visit, the people of Guam will always remember this man of faith and vision who taught us "not to be content to boast of a glorious heritage from the past without turning to the demands of the present moment." Rather, we must put our faith into practice each and every day, seeking more effective ways to proclaim the message of love to all those we meet.

Pope John Paul II was beloved by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Through the many challenges confronting the Catholic faith and the world, Pope John Paul II as the Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pastor of the Catholic Church was the rock of the Church and the conscience of the world. At his passing, we mourn the loss of a great person. For Catholics, we take comfort in the knowledge that he is at peace with God the Father, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit in heaven. On behalf of the people of Guam, "Adios Santo Papa yan in guiya hao."

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 5, 2005, the resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered on the resolution and on the preamble.

The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-



minute vote on adopting H. Res. 190 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on H. Res. 148.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

YEAS—415

Abercrombie	Davis (FL)	Hulshof
Ackerman	Davis (IL)	Hunter
Aderholt	Davis (KY)	Hyde
Akin	Davis (TN)	Inglis (SC)
Alexander	Davis, Jo Ann	Inslee
Allen	Davis, Tom	Israel
Andrews	Deal (GA)	Issa
Baca	DeFazio	Jackson (IL)
Bachus	DeGette	Jackson-Lee
Baker	Delahunt	(TX)
Baldwin	DeLauro	Jefferson
Barrett (SC)	DeLay	Jenkins
Barrow	Dent	Jindal
Bartlett (MD)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Johnson (CT)
Barton (TX)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Johnson (IL)
Bass	Dicks	Johnson, E. B.
Bean	Dingell	Johnson, Sam
Beauprez	Doggett	Jones (NC)
Becerra	Doolittle	Jones (OH)
Berkley	Doyle	Kanjorski
Berman	Drake	Kaptur
Berry	Dreier	Keller
Biggert	Duncan	Kelly
Bilirakis	Edwards	Kennedy (MN)
Bishop (GA)	Ehlers	Kennedy (RI)
Bishop (NY)	Emanuel	Kildee
Bishop (UT)	Emerson	Kilpatrick (MI)
Blackburn	Engel	Kind
Blumenauer	English (PA)	King (IA)
Blunt	Eshoo	King (NY)
Boehlert	Etheridge	Kirk
Boehner	Evans	Kline
Bonilla	Everett	Knollenberg
Bonner	Farr	Kolbe
Bono	Fattah	Kucinich
Boozman	Feeney	Kuhl (NY)
Boren	Ferguson	LaHood
Boswell	Filner	Langevin
Boucher	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Lantos
Boustany	Flake	Larsen (WA)
Boyd	Foley	Larsen (CT)
Bradley (NH)	Ford	Latham
Brady (PA)	Fortenberry	LaTourette
Brady (TX)	Fossella	Leach
Brown (SC)	Fox	Lee
Brown, Corrine	Frank (MA)	Levin
Brown-Waite,	Franks (AZ)	Lewis (CA)
Ginny	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (GA)
Burgess	Gallegly	Lewis (KY)
Burton (IN)	Garrett (NJ)	Linder
Butterfield	Gerlach	Lipinski
Buyer	Gibbons	LoBiondo
Calvert	Gilchrest	Lofgren, Zoe
Camp	Gillmor	Lowey
Cannon	Gingrey	Lucas
Cantor	Gohmert	Lungren, Daniel
Capito	Gonzalez	E.
Capps	Goode	Mack
Capuano	Goodlatte	Maloney
Cardin	Gordon	Manzullo
Cardoza	Granger	Marchant
Carnahan	Graves	Markey
Carson	Green (WI)	Marshall
Carter	Green, Al	Matheson
Case	Green, Gene	Matsui
Castle	Grijalva	McCarthy
Chabot	Gutknecht	McCaul (TX)
Chandler	Hall	McCollum (MN)
Chocola	Harman	McCotter
Clay	Harris	McCrery
Cleaver	Hart	McDermott
Coble	Hastings (FL)	McGovern
Cole (OK)	Hastings (WA)	McHenry
Conaway	Hayes	McHugh
Conyers	Hayworth	McIntyre
Cooper	Hefley	McKeon
Costa	Hensarling	McKinney
Costello	Herger	McMorris
Cox	Herse	McNulty
Cramer	Higgins	Meehan
Crenshaw	Hinche	Meek (FL)
Crowley	Hinojosa	Meeks (NY)
Cuellar	Holden	Melancon
Culberson	Holt	Menendez
Cummings	Honda	Mica
Cunningham	Hookey	Michaud
Davis (AL)	Hostettler	Miller (FL)
Davis (CA)	Hoyer	Miller (MI)

Miller (NC)	Rahall	Sodrel
Miller, Gary	Ramstad	Solis
Miller, George	Regula	Spratt
Mollohan	Rehberg	Stark
Moore (KS)	Reichert	Stearns
Moore (WI)	Renzi	Strickland
Moran (KS)	Reyes	Stupak
Moran (VA)	Reynolds	Sullivan
Murphy	Rogers (AL)	Sweeney
Murtha	Rogers (KY)	Tancred
Musgrave	Rogers (MI)	Tanner
Myrick	Rohrabacher	Tauscher
Nadler	Ros-Lehtinen	Taylor (MS)
Neal (MA)	Ross	Taylor (NC)
Neugebauer	Rothman	Terry
Ney	Roybal-Allard	Thomas
Northup	Royce	Thompson (CA)
Norwood	Ruppersberger	Thompson (MS)
Nunes	Rush	Thornberry
Nussle	Ryan (OH)	Tiahrt
Oberstar	Ryan (WI)	Tiberi
Obey	Ryun (KS)	Tierney
Oliver	Sabo	Towns
Ortiz	Salazar	Turner
Osborne	Sánchez, Linda	Udall (CO)
Otter	T.	Udall (NM)
Owens	Sanchez, Loretta	Upton
Oxley	Sanders	Van Hollen
Pallone	Saxton	Velázquez
Pascarella	Schakowsky	Visclosky
Pastor	Schiff	Walden (OR)
Paul	Schwartz (PA)	Walsh
Payne	Schwarz (MI)	Wamp
Pearce	Scott (GA)	Wasserman
Pelosi	Scott (VA)	Schultz
Pence	Sensenbrenner	Watt
Peterson (MN)	Serrano	Waxman
Peterson (PA)	Sessions	Weiner
Petri	Shadegg	Weldon (FL)
Pickering	Shaw	Weldon (PA)
Pitts	Shays	Weller
Platts	Sherman	Westmoreland
Poe	Sherwood	Wexler
Pombo	Shuster	Whitfield
Pomeroy	Simmons	Wicker
Porter	Simpson	Wilson (NM)
Portman	Skelton	Wilson (SC)
Price (GA)	Slaghter	Wolf
Price (NC)	Smith (NJ)	Woolsey
Pryce (OH)	Smith (TX)	Wu
Putnam	Smith (WA)	Wynn
Radanovich	Snyder	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—19

Baird	Hoekstra	Rangel
Brown (OH)	Istook	Shimkus
Clyburn	Kingston	Souder
Cubin	Lynch	Waters
Forbes	Millender-	Watson
Gutierrez	McDonald	Young (FL)
Hobson	Napolitano	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY) (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1551

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 94, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 94 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 148.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 148, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 2, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 95]

YEAS—409

Abercrombie	Cuellar	Hinche
Ackerman	Culberson	Hinojosa
Aderholt	Cummings	Holden
Akin	Cunningham	Holt
Alexander	Davis (AL)	Honda
Allen	Davis (CA)	Hookey
Andrews	Davis (FL)	Hostettler
Baca	Davis (IL)	Hoyer
Bachus	Davis (KY)	Hulshof
Baker	Davis (TN)	Hunter
Baldwin	Davis, Jo Ann	Hyde
Barrett (SC)	Davis, Tom	Inglis (SC)
Barrow	Deal (GA)	Inslee
Bartlett (MD)	DeFazio	Israel
Barton (TX)	DeGette	Issa
Bass	Delahunt	Istook
Bean	DeLauro	Jackson (IL)
Beauprez	Dent	Jackson-Lee
Becerra	Diaz-Balart, L.	(TX)
Berkley	Diaz-Balart, M.	Jenkins
Berman	Dicks	Jindal
Berry	Dingell	Johnson (CT)
Biggert	Doggett	Johnson (IL)
Bilirakis	Doolittle	Johnson, E. B.
Bishop (GA)	Doyle	Johnson, Sam
Bishop (NY)	Drake	Jones (OH)
Bishop (UT)	Dreier	Kanjorski
Blackburn	Duncan	Kaptur
Blumenauer	Edwards	Keller
Blunt	Ehlers	Kelly
Boehlert	Emanuel	Kennedy (MN)
Boehner	Emerson	Kennedy (RI)
Bonilla	Engel	Kildee
Bonner	English (PA)	Kilpatrick (MI)
Bono	Eshoo	Kind
Boozman	Etheridge	King (IA)
Boren	Everett	King (NY)
Boswell	Farr	Kirk
Boucher	Fattah	Kline
Boustany	Feeney	Knollenberg
Boyd	Ferguson	Kolbe
Bradley (NH)	Filner	Kucinich
Brady (PA)	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Kuhl (NY)
Brady (TX)	Foley	LaHood
Brown (SC)	Ford	Langevin
Brown, Corrine	Fortenberry	Lantos
Brown-Waite,	Fossella	Larsen (WA)
Ginny	Fox	Larsen (CT)
Burgess	Frank (MA)	Latham
Burton (IN)	Franks (AZ)	LaTourette
Butterfield	Frelinghuysen	Leach
Buyer	Gallegly	Lee
Calvert	Garrett (NJ)	Levin
Camp	Gerlach	Lewis (CA)
Cannon	Gibbons	Lewis (GA)
Cantor	Gilchrest	Lewis (KY)
Capito	Gillmor	Linder
Capps	Gingrey	Lipinski
Capuano	Gonzalez	LoBiondo
Cardin	Goode	Lofgren, Zoe
Cardoza	Goodlatte	Lowey
Carnahan	Gordon	Lucas
Carson	Granger	Lungren, Daniel
Carter	Graves	E.
Case	Green (WI)	Lynch
Castle	Green, Al	Mack
Chabot	Green, Gene	Maloney
Chandler	Grijalva	Manzullo
Chocola	Gutknecht	Marchant
Clay	Hall	Markey
Cleaver	Harman	Marshall
Coble	Harris	Matheson
Cole (OK)	Hart	Matsui
Conaway	Hastings (FL)	McCarthy
Conyers	Hastings (WA)	McCaul (TX)
Cooper	Hayes	McCollum (MN)
Costa	Hayworth	McCotter
Costello	Hefley	McCrery
Cox	Hensarling	McDermott
Cramer	Herger	McGovern
Crenshaw	Herse	McHenry
Crowley	Higgins	McHugh

McIntyre	Pombo	Smith (NJ)
McKeon	Pomeroy	Smith (TX)
McKinney	Porter	Smith (WA)
McMorris	Portman	Snyder
McNulty	Price (GA)	Sodrel
Meehan	Price (NC)	Solis
Meek (FL)	Pryce (OH)	Spratt
Meeks (NY)	Putnam	Stark
Melancon	Radanovich	Stearns
Menendez	Rahall	Strickland
Mica	Ramstad	Stupak
Michaud	Regula	Sullivan
Miller (FL)	Rehberg	Sweeney
Miller (MI)	Reichert	Tancred
Miller (NC)	Renzi	Tanner
Miller, Gary	Reyes	Tauscher
Miller, George	Reynolds	Taylor (MS)
Mollohan	Rogers (AL)	Taylor (NC)
Moore (KS)	Rogers (KY)	Terry
Moore (WI)	Rogers (MI)	Thomas
Moran (KS)	Rohrabacher	Thompson (CA)
Moran (VA)	Ros-Lehtinen	Thompson (MS)
Murphy	Ross	Thornberry
Murtha	Rothman	Tiahrt
Musgrave	Roybal-Allard	Tiberi
Myrick	Royce	Tierney
Nadler	Ruppersberger	Townes
Napolitano	Rush	Turner
Neal (MA)	Ryan (OH)	Udall (CO)
Neugebauer	Ryan (WI)	Udall (NM)
Ney	Ryun (KS)	Upton
Northup	Sabo	Van Hollen
Norwood	Salazar	Velázquez
Nunes	Sánchez, Linda	Visclosky
Nussle	T.	Walden (OR)
Oberstar	Sanchez, Loretta	Walsh
Obey	Sanders	Wamp
Olver	Saxton	Wasserman
Ortiz	Schakowsky	Schultz
Osborne	Schiff	Watt
Owens	Schwartz (PA)	Waxman
Oxley	Schwarz (MI)	Weiner
Pallone	Scott (GA)	Weldon (FL)
Pascarell	Scott (VA)	Weldon (PA)
Pastor	Sensenbrenner	Weller
Payne	Serrano	Westmoreland
Pearce	Sessions	Wexler
Pelosi	Shadegg	Whitfield
Pence	Shaw	Wicker
Peterson (MN)	Sherman	Wilson (NM)
Peterson (PA)	Sherwood	Wilson (SC)
Petri	Shuster	Wolf
Pickering	Simmons	Woolsey
Pitts	Simpson	Wu
Platts	Skelton	Wynn
Poe	Slaughter	Young (AK)

## NAYS—2

Flake

Paul

## NOT VOTING—23

Baird	Gutierrez	Otter
Brown (OH)	Hobson	Rangel
Clyburn	Hoekstra	Shays
Cubin	Jefferson	Shimkus
DeLay	Jones (NC)	Souder
Evans	Kingston	Waters
Forbes	Millender-	Watson
Gohmert	McDonald	Young (FL)

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1600

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on April 6, 2005, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 94 (H. Res. 190—Honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death) and 95 (H. Res. 148—

Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month).

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 740 and H.R. 742

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 740 and 742. My name was mistakenly added to these bills by the sponsor in place of my colleague, Representative TOM PRICE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

## APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON CONGRESSIONAL MAILING STANDARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 501(b), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards:

Mr. NEY, Ohio, Chairman;  
Mr. ADERHOLT, Alabama;  
Mr. SWEENEY, New York;  
Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, California;  
Mr. HOLT, New Jersey;  
Mr. SHERMAN, California.

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I take this time for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule for the coming week. I yield to the majority leader, Mr. DELAY, for the purposes of informing us of the schedule.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. The House will convene on Tuesday at 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules; a final list of these bills will be sent to the Members' offices by the end of the week.

Any votes called on these measures will be rolled until 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will convene at 10 a.m. for legislative business. We likely will consider additional legislation under suspension of the rules, as well as S. 256, The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

In addition, we also plan to consider H.R. 8, the Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005.

Finally, I would like to remind all Members that we are finished voting for the week. We will not be in session tomorrow to accommodate Members

traveling to Rome for the funeral services of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his information.

I would ask the majority leader if he knows which days we will be considering bankruptcy and which day we will be considering the estate tax bill? I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. We do not know at this point, and we will certainly advise the gentleman when we have that. The problem is because of this shortened week, we have committees that are marking up next week that had planned to mark up this week, and we have to try to work out the schedule so that we can make it as convenient for those markups as possible.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, in any event, both bills will be on the calendar next week?

Mr. DELAY. That is correct. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the budget resolution which we have passed, I know the Senate has appointed conferees, but we have not yet appointed conferees. Does the leader know when we might appoint conferees for the budget conference? I yield to the leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I am not advised as to when we could go to conference on the budget, possibly next week. I know the House is yet to appoint the conferees, so we have a ways to go before a conference report is completed.

Mr. HOYER. I would ask the majority leader, he is confident that we will have a conference?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I am confident that we will have a conference. Yes, I am very confident.

Mr. HOYER. One additional question. I presume the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) will be invited to the conference at some point in time, along with others?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is a very good friend of mine, and it would hurt my feelings if we did not invite the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) to the conference.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that assurance. As the gentleman knows, we have had some problems, at least from our perspective, in being included in the conferences from time to time. That is an important one.

Our citizens are confronting, as my colleague knows, very high gas prices, \$2.20, \$2.30, \$2.50 in some areas of the country. I understand that the committees of jurisdiction are expected to be marking up next week or are in the process of marking up the energy bill. Can the gentleman tell me when that bill might be on the floor?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, the gentleman is

correct, and we are all concerned about the higher gas prices and as important as that is to higher prices of oil and gas. We have been trying to pass or get to the President an energy bill for almost 5 years or 6 years. We have an excellent chance of actually getting a bill to the President this year.

We have had three committees scheduled to mark up components of the energy bill this week, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Resources, but due to the shortened week, only one of those was able to begin their markup. I hope, and we are going to work very hard, and I expect that all three of those committees will complete their markups next week, and we will be able to have a comprehensive energy bill on the floor hopefully by the following week.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that information.

ADJOURNMENT FROM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2005, TO FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 8, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2005, TO TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, April 8, 2005, that it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2005, for morning hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### SANDY BERGER AND THE "SLOPPY SOCKS SCANDAL"

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, in July 2004, I addressed the Sandy Berger

"Sloppy Socks Scandal" here on the floor. At that time, many of the liberals here in Washington said that the former Clinton national security aide had done nothing wrong, that he had not stolen Top Secret documents regarding the Clinton's administration terrorism policies.

Well, today we know the truth. Sandy Berger did indeed steal and destroy Top Secret documents. In fact, it is such a clear case of theft and such a disturbing crime against this Nation that Mr. Berger has pled guilty to taking classified material. He has pled guilty to taking classified materials.

The punishment does not fit the crime. I was stunned to learn that for stealing national secrets and for putting his own interests and that of the Clinton administration above America's war on terrorism, that he will simply have to pay a \$10,000 fine and relinquish his security clearance for 3 years. This is outrageous.

Those of us who are shocked by this outcome will be watching to be sure that no future Democratic administration ever gives Mr. Berger a job in the national security arena again.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate on rollcall votes that I missed yesterday, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 91; I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 92; I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 93. I was not present because I was unavoidably detained on official business in my district.

#### CONGRATULATING THE BAYLOR LADY BEARS ON WINNING THE WOMEN'S NCAA NATIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what more can I say about those Baylor Lady Bears, Baylor as good as green and gold. All of us from the State of Texas applaud the Baylor Bears and their coaches.

Mr. Speaker, I will quickly call off the roll: Number 45, Steffanie Blackmon; No. 24, Tiffanie Blackmon; No. 22, Jordan Davis; No. 5, Chanelle Fox; No. 25, Melanie Hamerly; No. 1, Monique Jones; No. 13, Victoria Jones; No. 51, Emily Niemann; No. 4, Chisa Onoiwu; No. 21, Chameka Scott; No. 20, Angela Tisdale; No. 35, Abiola Wabara; No. 2, Chelsea Whitaker; No. 12, Latoya Wyatt; No. 33, Sophia Young; coaches Kim Mulkey-Robertson, Bill Brock, Johnny Derrick, Jennifer Roberts and Mike Snauffer.

Congratulations to all of them, and we are looking forward to seeing them in Houston, Texas, to be able to honor them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Baylor University Women's Basketball team on

winning their first NCAA title. With a final record of 32–3, the Lady Bears have risen to the challenge and have represented the Big Twelve Conference and the State of Texas with pride. The Lady Bears completed their magical season last night in Championship game by beating Michigan State 84–62.

The Lady Bears are a tremendous team that play as one unit and are led by seniors Chelsea Whitaker and Steffanie Blackmon. I attended the Lady Bears' 68–57 victory over LSU in the Final Four game on Sunday and was particularly excited for junior forward Sophia Young, who scored 21 points in the game, and was named the Tempe Regionals' MVP earlier in the tournament. She scored a game high 26 points in the Championship Game, once again rising to the occasion. As a Member of the House Immigration Subcommittee, I was able to help bring Miss Young's mother, Annie Christopher, from St. Vincent, West Indies to see her daughter play collegiate basketball for the first time. Sophia is a very talented basketball player and I am glad that she was able to take her place as a member of the Baylor basketball team through the U.S. Immigration program. We as a nation embrace talent such as Sophia's athletic gifts and we recognize the value of reuniting families for important moments. After Baylor's latest victory when Sophia was able to hug her mother in the stands, you could see that this is the real face of immigration.

I also want to congratulate Coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson on her great achievements at Baylor. Last night she became the first women's coach to win a championship as a player and coach. She truly deserves all the credit she receives for the job she has done with this talented team. In 2000, she inherited a program that went 7–20 the previous season and in her very first season she guided the Lady Bears to a 21–9 record and last year took Baylor to the Sweet 16. This year the Lady Bears finished their season having won 20 straight games, the longest such streak in college basketball this year.

I am confident that the great fans of Baylor helped carry the Lady Bears to victory throughout the year. This team wasn't the favorite to win the championship when the season began and even throughout the Tournament they were considered the underdog, but they never gave up believing in themselves and in this team. They became only the fourth team in the history of both men's and women's NCAA basketball to beat three No. 1 seeds en route to national title. This team has withstood great challenges, both mental and physical to reach the pinnacle of women's college basketball. This team played with pride and determination and they deserved to finish their season with a victory. With that said, let me congratulate each player and coach of the 2005 Baylor Women's Basketball Team:

45 Steffanie Blackmon P 6–2 SR–3L Dallas, Texas/Rowlett; 24 Tiffanie Blackmon P 6–0 SR–3L Dallas, Texas/Rowlett; 22 Jordan Davis G 5–9 RS JR–2L Celina, Texas/Celina High School; 5 Chanelle Fox G 5–11 RS JR–2L Houston, Texas/Westfield; 25 Melanie Hamerly P 6–5 SR–3L Orange, Texas/Little Cypress-Mauriceville; 1 Monique Jones G 5–9 SO–1L Ferriday, La./Ferriday; 13 Victoria Jones G 5–4 FR–HS San Marcos, Texas/San Marcos HS; 51 Emily Niemann F 6–1 SO–1L Houston, Texas/Westbury Christian; 4 Chisa Onoiwu G 5–7 FR–HS Houston, Texas/Westfield HS; 21 Chameka Scott G 6–0 JR–2L

Friendswood, Texas/Clear Brook; 20 Angela Tisdale G 5-5 FR—HS Austin, Texas/Del Valle, HS; 35 Abiola Wabara F 6-0 RS SO—1L Parma, Italy/Liceo Scientifico Marconi; 2 Chelsea Whitaker G 5-9 RS SR—2L Dallas, Texas/Skyline/Virginia; 12 Latoya Wyatt G 5-7 SO—TR Fort Worth, Texas/L.D. Bell HS/McLennan CC; and 33 Sophia Young F 6-1 JR—2L St. Vincent, West Indies/Evangel Christian Academy.

Coaches: Kim Mulkey-Robertson—Head Coach; Bill Brock—Associate Head Coach; Johnny Derrick—Assistant Coach; Jennifer Roberts—Assistant Coach; Mike Snauffer—Graduate Assistant.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### HONORING LYNN MCINTYRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynn McIntyre, who is retiring as vice president for university affairs at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California. Rohnert Park is located 40 miles north of San Francisco, across the Golden Gate Bridge in Sonoma County.

In her position as vice president, Lynn has demonstrated great skill and diplomacy in overseeing public media and government relations, university publications and university policies, and several special projects of interest to the university. She is a valued member of the university president's cabinet, advising him on management decisions.

Lynn has had a diverse and varied career in education and banking. She has worked in Somalia. She has served in the Peace Corps in India. She has been a secondary schoolteacher in California and an administrator at Boston University, as well as vice president at both Security Pacific Bank and First Interstate Bank in Los Angeles. In this capacity she provided financial services to Fortune 500 and other companies in California and throughout the South and the West.

Raised on family farms in the central valley of California, Lynn received BA and MA degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MBA degree from Simmons College in Boston. She also studied in Vienna, Austria.

As a board member of Goodwill Industries of the Redwood Empire, and a member of the Sonoma County Business Education Roundtable, Lynn stays active in community affairs.

She and her husband Jerry own a vineyard in Sonoma County, selling pinot noir and merlot grapes to prominent wineries. As a hobby, they also make their own wine under the private label of Starr Creek Vineyard. I have tasted it. It is delicious.

As President Ruben Arminana of Sonoma State so aptly noted when commenting on Lynn's skills in diplomacy and administration, he said, "She makes possible the impossible. She is loved and admired by faculty, staff, administrators and members of the community."

Mr. Speaker, I have greatly enjoyed working with Lynn McIntyre at Sonoma State University. Although her outstanding efforts will be missed, I know that she will stay involved in university affairs and in important education issues in our community. I wish her luck in retirement and look forward to seeing her in other capacities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the time of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

#### JUDICIAL POWER GRAB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, regardless of how one feels about the Terri Schiavo case, and regardless of whether one is a liberal or a conservative, everyone should be concerned that the judiciary seems to be setting itself up as a type of superlegislature.

Our Founding Fathers clearly did not mean for the judicial branch to be superior to or more powerful than the legislative and executive branches.

A Member of the other body, former State supreme court justice, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), made some very serious charges on the floor of the Senate Monday. He said, "It causes a lot of people great distress to see judges use the authority they have been given to make raw political or ideological decisions."

He added that "sometimes the Supreme Court has taken on this role as a policymaker rather than an enforcer of political decisions made by elected representatives of the people."

The reason people on both sides of the political spectrum should be concerned about this judicial power grab is that the political pendulum swings. Sometimes conservatives control legislative bodies; sometimes liberals do. Would liberals someday want conserv-

ative judges overruling their legislation?

The Schiavo bill was very narrowly drawn to apply to just that case at the request or insistence of more liberal Members of both the House and Senate.

□ 1615

Then some liberals in the media, in Congress, and in the courts criticized the bill as being too narrowly drawn. One judge, showing great arrogance, even scolded the Congress for acting, issuing a bitter non-judicial type of an opinion.

I served for 7½ years as a circuit court or State trial court judge in Tennessee. I have great respect for the legal profession and the judiciary. When I attended George Washington University's law school in the early 1970s, I took a course in legislative law. We were taught then that the courts were not legislatures. They were not to be political bodies, and they were to give great deference to the actions of the Congress and the State legislatures.

In fact, we were taught, through a great amount of case law, that the primary role of the courts was to try to determine legislative intent, not to try, whenever possible, to overrule it anytime judges might disagree for personal and/or political reasons.

The intent of the Congress was clear in the Schiavo case, with the bill passing the House 203 to 58 with strong support from both bodies and by unanimous agreement in the Senate. Are we now to have some type of judicial dictatorship?

Thomas Jefferson, in a letter written in September of 1820, said this, responding to the arguments that Federal judges should be the final interpreters of the Constitution: "You seem to consider the Federal judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions, a very dangerous doctrine, indeed, and one which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy. Our judges are as honest as other men, and not more so. They have with others the same passions for the party, for power, and the privilege of the corps. Their power is the more dangerous, as they are in office for life and not responsible, as the other functionaries are, to the elective control. The Constitution has erected no such single tribunal." A quote from Thomas Jefferson.

Alexander Hamilton, writing many years ago in Federalist Paper No. 81, said: "To avoid all inconveniences, it will be safest to declare generally that the Supreme Court shall possess appellate jurisdictions that shall be subject to such exceptions and regulations as the national legislature may prescribe. This will enable the government to modify this in such a manner as will best answer the ends of public justice and security."

All judges are elected or appointed through a political process, yet many do not like to admit this either to

themselves or to others. So they sometimes go to extremes and bend over backwards to prove how nonpolitical they are. They leap at the opportunity to rule against a political defendant or show their power by overturning a political decision by Congress or some other legislative body.

Federal judges in particular are not only unelected; they are, as a practical matter, almost totally unaccountable. Thus they have very great power, which is very easy to abuse. For most of the history of this country, Federal judges exercised this power with great restraint, giving great deference to legislative bodies. For many years now, however, we have had far too many judges who have lost their humility and have not shown this same restraint. In the process of trying to show how nonpolitical and above politics they are, they have ironically become more political than ever before.

This has become so common that now a majority of people in this country have become upset with government by the Judiciary instead of by co-equal legislative and executive bodies. We are going down a dangerous path, Mr. Speaker, and one that was clearly not intended by our Founding Fathers or the Constitution they gave us.

We are supposed to have a government of, by, and for the people, not one that ignores clear legislative intent and becomes one that is only of, by, and for the courts and of, by, and for very political and power-hungry judges.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JOHN MEDINGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Medinger upon his retirement as mayor of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Involved in local politics since 1976, John is a dedicated public servant and a good friend. I will miss his leadership as mayor, but I am confident he will remain active in our community and influential in improving the quality of life in western Wisconsin.

Born and raised in La Crosse, Mayor Medinger and his family have always been active in local politics and have contributed immensely to the growth and development of our community. His father, Don, a good union member, served on the La Crosse City Council and was well-respected throughout the area. Following his father's example of

civic duty, John ran for and was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1986, where he served for the next 16 years.

From 1993 to 1996, he worked for U.S. Senator RUSS FEINGOLD as his western Wisconsin regional coordinator, and in 1996 he ran for and was elected mayor of La Crosse. During his tenure as mayor, he continually advocated for social justice on behalf of the hard-working families in western Wisconsin. His contributions and dedication to the community made him an excellent mentor, and our area has been well served by his leadership.

I have known John for many years and have admired his thoughtfulness, idealism, unwavering principles, and ability to reach across party lines to create good public policy. As mayor, he was always honest and never hesitated to tell you when he thought you were wrong. Likewise, he was the first to embrace a good idea and work to put a plan into action.

Lastly, I commend John for his tireless work to encourage and welcome greater racial diversity, which has made the La Crosse area a special place to live and raise a family.

John exemplifies all that is good, noble, and decent in public service. He believes in our representative democracy, and he made himself approachable and accessible to anyone who wanted to share their thoughts with him, whether it was when he showed up on their doorstep during the course of his many campaigns or during his time in office.

Both John and his wife, Dee, have sacrificed greatly to live a life of public service. If anyone deserves a break from the public spotlight, they do. Although John Medinger is retiring from the mayoral position, his advocacy and community work will leave a lasting legacy on the La Crosse community, and the area will continue to benefit from all that he has done.

I want to thank him for his hard work and dedication, and I wish Dee and John the best of luck in their future endeavors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BOUSTANY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### IN MEMORY OF MARINE LANCE CORPORAL WESLEY JOEL CANNING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, "I don't do it for the money, I don't do it for the glory. Providing for our future is my responsibility. I can't call in sick on Mondays when the weekend has been too strong. I just work straight through the holidays and sometimes all night long. You can bet that I stand ready when the wolf growls at the door. I am solid, I am steady, I am true down to the core."

This is taken from Toby Keith's "American Soldier." And, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a young American Marine from a tranquil town in southeast Texas of approximately 34,000 people, Marine Lance Corporal Wesley Joel Canning, who died valiantly serving our country and our Nation in Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Lance Corporal Canning, in just 21 short years, had already exhibited a lifetime of courage and boldness. He was killed in combat on November 10, 2004, in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, during the successful American offensive against the insurgent enemy in Fallujah.

He was a native of Friendswood, Texas. Wes, as he was called by his friends and family, graduated from Friendswood High School in 2002 and left for boot camp in July, just 2 months after his graduation. Resolute about becoming a Marine since his junior year, he had approached his parents with the idea. His father, Joe Canning, recalls their hesitations: "He decided he wanted to become a Marine," his father said. "Spend 20 years in the service and pursue a career in the criminal justice system. I tried my best to talk him out of it, telling him to go and get a good education, but he was hooked on becoming a Marine. And after doing everything I asked him to do, talking to recruiters from the other branches of service and friends and relatives who had served, he seemed more convinced than ever that the Marines was absolutely the right thing for him to do." In the end, "His mom and I gave him our blessing."

The devastating terrorist attack on September 11, which occurred before he

ever graduated from high school, further fueled this desire. According to his mother, Jo Ellen Canning, "9/11 didn't deter his efforts. He wanted all the more to go and protect his country."

He graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. He steadfastly pursued a post that would allow him to see action. Open for deployment in Iraq, he stayed at Camp Pendleton in California rather than accept another assignment.

In mid-March of 2003, with the commencement of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Lance Corporal Canning's wish came true. "He went to the front lines at the beginning of the war. There was not much telephone contact, so we watched TV the whole time until he made it home," Mrs. Canning recounts. In a letter to his parents that month, he described going in with the initial push and penetrating Baghdad.

He then returned to Texas after completing his first of ultimately two tours he volunteered for in Iraq. He excitedly did two things that, as his dad told me, "they advise the boys not to do." He trekked out to Lone Star Ford, bought a new little black pickup truck, so he could show his band of Marine brothers back at the base in North Carolina his proudly displayed bumper sticker, "Don't Mess With Texas." He also wedded his sweetheart from Fort Collins, Chayla.

Married just 11 months, and only 11 months, he was once again deployed in September of 2004 to Iraq, where he was looking forward to participating in the training of Iraqi soldiers and police. Now he is a husband, a family man, and he decided to serve 4 years, go back to school, and build a life with his new bride, Chayla, who, in spite of the obvious strain, loved being a Marine wife. She said, "Wes wanted to protect our family so our little brothers wouldn't have to. He was very protective of everybody."

Two months after being deployed to Iraq for a second tour, he left the following voice mail message for his father, who could not answer the phone because he was working on an offshore oil rig: "Hey, Dad, it's me. I love you and miss you. We're still over here."

Two days later, Lance Corporal Canning was killed in action precisely on the 229th birthday of the United States Marine Corps, November 10, 2004.

Myrlene Kennedy, the principal of Wes's high school, recalls, "He was kind to students and adults alike. He had a quick smile, a captivating personality, and that allowed him to have many friends." Wes's teachers said, "He knew pretty much what he wanted to do. Following his ambition, he joined the United States Marine Corps after graduation in 2002. He began that journey he dreamed of and talked about with teachers and friends. He loved wearing his Marine Corps T-shirt to class his senior year."

Wes's philosophy was written in his own high school yearbook: "Everything happens for a reason." For the

Marine Corps Reserve Unit in Galveston, Texas, a unit like the one Lance Corporal Canning was a part of, his death constituted the first time it had to bring home one of its own flag-draped caskets, the flag that was presented to Chayla, in addition to the Purple Heart Lance Corporal Canning was awarded. When asked by a reporter if she deemed her son a hero, Mrs. Canning swiftly replied, "He's always been a hero."

Today, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the United States Marine Corps alone has lost 49 Texans in combat-related casualties. While our military cannot replace individuals of exceptional character like Lance Corporal Canning, I believe his service will provide a sterling example for the men and women who carry forward his tenacious fight against terror, tyranny, and treachery.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, just this last week, April 1, which would have been Lance Corporal Canning's 22nd birthday, marked another momentous occasion, his best friend, Jason Powell, graduated from the United States Marine Corps Depot that had christened Lance Corporal Canning.

Lance Corporal Canning, as LeAnn Womack said, achieved "something, something worth leaving behind." He has touched other lives and inspired a fellow man to carry the torch and legacy of the Corps. Moreover, Lance Corporal Canning helped establish a democracy in Iraq, this historic start which I was privileged to observe on January 30 in a land far, far away.

I believe if today we could hear from Lance Corporal Canning himself, as a member once and always of the United States Marines, as a member of the few and the proud, he would resonate the remainder of Toby Keith's American Soldier: "And I will always do my duty no matter what the price. I have counted up the cost, I know the sacrifice. I don't want to die for you but if dying is asked of me, I will bear that cross with honor 'cause freedom don't come free. I am out here on the front line. Sleep in peace tonight. I am an American soldier, an American, an American Soldier."

So, Mr. Speaker, we extend our prayers, our condolences to his parents, relatives, fellow students at Friendswood High School in Texas, and his beloved wife. May this American hero's devotion to his country continue to kindle our dreams and ambitions as a free and independent people.

So Semper Fi, Lance Corporal Canning. Semper Fi.

□ 1630

#### BAYLOR SCORES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, national champions, that is what the

American people can now call the Baylor University women's basketball team. Last night the Baylor Lady Bears convincingly won the national championship by beating a talented Michigan State team 84-62. It is the second largest margin in a NCAA women's basketball final. It is the first Big 12 team, men or women's, to win a national basketball championship.

The Baylor Bears were one of only four teams in NCAA history, men or women's, to beat three number one teams in the Final 16. That accomplishment is impressive in and of itself, but what is incredible is just 5 years ago the Baylor Bears basketball team was at the bottom of the Big 12.

Mr. Speaker, the important message of this great American success story is that the values of hard work, determination and teamwork truly make a difference.

A key part of that team is Coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson, who became coach at Baylor just 5 years ago, taking over a program with a losing season and at the bottom of the Big 12 ladder. Coach Mulkey-Robertson would be the first to give credit to her tremendous and inspired players on the Baylor team, but she also deserves credit for bringing out that inspiration, and for teaching those students to be their best and then to even be better.

I congratulate Coach Mulkey-Robertson for being the first woman in NCAA basketball history to be a player on a national basketball championship team and then to be the coach of a national championship team. I believe all Americans can be proud not only of the victory on the basketball court, but the values reflected in that victory. Hard work, determination, and teamwork truly make a difference.

#### WELCOMING 2ND BATTALION HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, more than 400 Marines serving with the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Marine Regiment will be arriving home in Chicago on April 9, 2005, concluding their 9-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with a hero's welcome at the Allstate Arena. Many organizations, businesses, and families affiliated with the 2nd Battalion will come together to show their support, appreciation to these citizen soldiers who served their country by championing the cause of freedom in Iraq.

The 2nd Battalion of the 21st Marine Regiment was activated on June 1, 2004, to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. The mobilization brought together the Headquarters, Echo, and Weapons Companies, forming the battalion. The unit deployed to Iraq in September 2004 and began conducting support and security operations in northern Babil Province, Iraq.



These dedicated marines operated out of an abandoned chicken processing plant many described as resembling a police station. Their formula for success was to blend their superb military training with many years of law enforcement expertise by their commanding officer. Lieutenant Colonel Mark A. Smith was an Indiana State police. Nearly every platoon included two or three policemen by trade, which proved invaluable in the work of the unit. The battalion used police procedures in its intelligence work, comparing anti-Iraqi forces to criminals back home.

The combination of marine training and police experience allowed the battalion to capture more than 200 insurgents during their deployment. Because of their successful nighttime raids, 2nd Battalion 24 Marines earned the nickname "The Mad Ghosts" from the insurgents operating in Babil Province. Like other U.S. forces operating in Iraq, these marines truly owned the night, and their operations continued until 2nd Battalion was relieved by elements of the U.S. Army in March.

Unfortunately, some of these brave marines made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our country. Thirteen marines perished during this mobilization and deployment, 12 as a result of hostile action. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of the following marines who will not be returning home with their colleagues this weekend: Corporal Brian Prening, Corporal Robert Warns, Corporal Nathaniel Hammond, Corporal Peter Giannopolos, Lance Corporal Branden Ramey, Lance Corporal Daniel Wyatt, Lance Corporal Richard Warner, Lance Corporal Travis Wichlacz, Lance Corporal Shane O'Donnell, Private First Class Ryan Cantafio, Sergeant Matthew Adams, Lance Corporal Andrew Nowacki, and Private First Class Brent Vroman.

Mr. Speaker, these brave marines, their families and their employers back home all made sacrifices to support freedom and human rights and tolerance around the world. During their service in Iraq, Iraq became the United Nations' newest democracy. We celebrate the citizen soldiers who wear the uniform so proudly to protect their great nation.

To the men and women of the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Marine Regiment, to the unit based in Waukegan, Illinois, we offer you our heartfelt thanks for your service and sacrifice. We thank your loved ones for their sacrifice and support. Welcome home, and most importantly, *Semper Fi*.

#### COMMENTS ON THE EPA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the EPA is trying to exploit the poor

people in my district for their pseudo-Nazi and Tuskegee-like studies to determine what pesticides do to infants and toddlers in Duval County Florida.

In October, the EPA received \$2.1 million to do the study from the American Chemistry Council, a chemical industry front group that includes members such as Dow, Exxon, and Monsanto. Critics of the research, including some EPA scientists, claim the study's funders guarantee the results will be biased in favor of the chemical industry, at the expense of the health of the impoverished children serving as test subjects.

The families would have to keep spraying, even when the directions on the bottles say "cover all food and keep pets and children outside and away from the pesticides."

The point of the study is to determine what happens to children exposed to pesticides. There is no reason to believe that the participants would be informed about incorrect use of pesticides that would abnormally affect the children. Any change in pesticide use would skew the results.

In fact, EPA policy recommends that children be kept away from all pesticides because all pose some health risks. But the agency will not be warning parents in this study group. Doing so would interfere with the study. Infants and toddlers up to 3 years in age are involved, and the agency will warn their parents of the pesticide danger only if their children begin to show risky levels of pesticides in their urine.

There are no safeguards to prevent a family from increasing their pesticides use to become eligible for the study.

This is a low income area. \$970 over two years, plus a video camcorder is a lot of money to many people.

The EPA Press Release for this study said: "As part of this exposure study, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) has signed a cooperative research agreement with EPA to collect information on exposures of young children to several household chemicals, including phthalates, brominated flame retardants, and perfluorinated chemicals."

These classes of chemicals have been shown to have effects on male sperm counts in adults, and are known to be dangerous. The European Union is in the process of banning these drugs.

This project is symptomatic of a larger problem.

This administration has been pushing to increase human testing.

American kids should not be guinea pigs for a misguided administration proposal to help the large pesticide companies increase sales.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to the life of Pope John Paul II. Although I am deeply saddened by his passing on Saturday, April 2, I join my colleagues in honoring the extraordinary life that he led.

Born in Poland in 1920, Karol Wojtyla secretly studied theology during the Nazi occupation, and then became a leader in the opposition to communism as a young priest and bishop. His elevation to the papacy in September of 1978 was full of symbolism and significance. Pope John Paul II was the first Slavic Pope and the first non-Italian Pope in 455 years. During his 26-year papacy, he led the Catholic Church and its members with dignity and conviction. He traveled more miles, gave more speeches and published more material than any of his predecessors, and ushered the papacy into the modern era.

In the insightful words of his biographer, George Weigel, his life was a witness to hope. He was a large influence in the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the dismantling of the Berlin Wall. His trip to his native Poland in 1979, just a year after his investiture as Pope, set the country spiritually afire against the communists and inspired the Solidarity movement on every level.

His unique relationship with President Ronald Reagan, what Time Magazine called "the Holy Alliance," enabled a bloodless end to the Cold War. President Reagan sent his top envoy, General Dick Walters, to the Vatican many times to take intelligence on the Communists to the Pope. In December of 1980, the Pope, the Reagan White House, the Solidarity movement and many other players were able to stop a planned Soviet invasion of Poland.

Pope John Paul II also made friends of the progressive Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev in the 1980s who would later tell an Italian newspaper that what happened in Eastern Europe over these last few years would have been impossible without the Pope's presence.

Pope John Paul II held a deep desire for the unity of the Christian churches, in particularly that of the Western Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox Churches. He preached understanding between religions, and in his later years in the papacy, he astounded the world by visiting synagogues, mosques and Protestant churches. He sought reconciliation with the Jews, asking God's forgiveness for the sins of the Church against Christianity's "elder brother" by placing a memorable prayer on the Western Wall during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March 2000.

As a Catholic who served as an altar boy and attended parochial school in my youth, I recall the pride I felt when, after an assassination attempt in 1981, Pope John Paul II sought out his assailant to offer him forgiveness rather than condemnation. He leaves behind a legacy of grace and compassion.

Pope John Paul II spoke directly to the concerns of the family, understanding the family to be the foundation of a society rooted in relationships of love. He spoke frequently about human rights, especially the right to life. As a prolific obstetrician, I was inspired by his strong stance against what he referred to as a disturbing phenomenon of widespread destruction of so many human lives and the blunting of the moral sensitivity of people's consciousness because of it. He stood against this culture of death as a violation against the human person and against God, the Creator and Father. Without his tireless voice, these rights would be even further threatened.

He shows us a great example of how to live, and then how to die. With his death, the world has lost one of the great figures of our lifetime, and his leadership will be sorely missed. My prayers today are of thanksgiving for his life and service to all humankind, and that we will continue on his sacred legacy.

#### POPE JOHN PAUL II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing the deep sorrow of the House of Representatives upon the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. As a Catholic myself, but also as a public official with a keen eye toward domestic and international affairs, I rise also to celebrate the life and the 26-year papacy of John Paul II.

As history's third longest pontificate, it was not without its faults, to be sure. All told, however, it is undeniable that the papacy of Pope John Paul II was the most significant in the 20th century and one of the most significant of all time.

Born in Wadowice, Poland, in 1920, Karol Wojtyla was a serious if nondescript youth. Young Karol enjoyed dramatics and thought of becoming an actor, but was instead called to serve the Church. Studying in secret for the priesthood as Poland was occupied by Nazis during World War II, young Karol became Father Wojtyla on November 1, 1946, and subsequently served in various capacities in his native Poland, serving under the legendary Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, and later serving in his own right as Archbishop of Krakow, Poland.

On June 26, 1967, Archbishop Wojtyla was elevated to the College of Cardinals, receiving the Red Hat, as it is known in Vatican circles, from Pope Paul VI.

Krakow is known in official European guidebooks as the gem among European towns, although its survival under the invasion and occupation of soldiers in the wake of World War II

and during the Cold War years is often believed to be miraculous in and of itself. Whereas cities like Warsaw saw significant devastation during World War II, physically Krakow managed to survive relatively unscathed.

□ 1645

It did not emerge psychologically unscathed, however, as the Cold War years took its toll on the city and on the Polish people, scars that would take the unique vision of an electrician from Gdansk and the spiritual inspiration of a religious leader from Wadowice to finally begin to heal.

Cardinal Wojtyla continued to lead his flock throughout the Papacy of Paul VI, until its conclusion at his death in the summer of 1978. It is right here that the story of Cardinal Wojtyla's rise to the Papacy becomes most interesting.

In 1978, the Catholic Church on a worldwide scale was in need of renewal. After years of devout and faithful following of the teachings of the Church, many Catholics, particularly here in America, began to question the direction of the Church on a number of issues, including birth control, priestly celibacy, and the potential ordination of women as priests. At the time of Pope Paul VI's death, it was said by many that the Papacy required a new direction, one that was perhaps most succinctly summed up by the sociologist and journalist Father Andrew Greeley, who said that the Church needed "a hopeful holy man who can smile." In August, our Church got that man in Pope John Paul I.

Cardinal Wojtyla could not have attended the August conclave with any belief that he would be elevated to the Papacy, as there had been no non-Italian Pope in more than 450 years. Accordingly, he and his mentor, the primate of Poland, Cardinal Wyszynski, attended the conclave and participated in the elevation of Albino Cardinal Luciani, the patriarch of Venice, to the Papacy as Pope John Paul I. It is believed that Cardinal Wojtyla received votes in the initial balloting during that August conclave, but it is said that the announcement of his name did not cause the Cardinal even to raise his head from his reading. He did not, and could not, expect to be selected by his brethren, and so upon the election of John Paul I, Cardinal Wojtyla returned to Krakow, secure in the knowledge that the Church had new leadership for the foreseeable future and that he would be able to return to minister to his flock.

Then the unexpected happened, the death of Pope John Paul I after the briefest of papacies. That the cardinals would return so soon to Rome to elect yet another successor to St. Peter was shocking to say the least, but even at that time Cardinal Wojtyla could hardly have expected to be elected. Interestingly, however, Wojtyla was age 58, an age usually considered young for a Pope; but in 1978, following the un-

timely death of Pope John Paul I, a new premium was placed on the health and vigor of the new Pope. In addition, Cardinal Wojtyla's reputation as an avid outdoorsman and skier continued to feed the notion that he was vigorous and able to withstand the physical challenges that would face a new Pontiff.

Not much is known of the conclave that elevated Cardinal Wojtyla to the Papacy, but much can be assumed. It can be assumed that Italian cardinals would have liked to have elected another Italian, but likely were unable to find a suitable candidate. It was at that time, it is surmised, that leaders within the College of Cardinals, including cardinals from South America, Austria and the Netherlands, saw an opportunity to elect a non-Italian as a compromise between competing factions of Italian cardinals. They joined with other cardinals to make history by electing the first Polish Pope.

We should stop to think for a moment of what occurred during this conclave. We as elected officials in the House of Representatives, each of us made the conscious decision to stand for election before our peers within our own districts. We made these decisions, all of us, of our own volition and with knowledge for the most part of the consequences of our respective decisions to run.

Cardinal Wojtyla did not have that same opportunity. As I have said, as a member of the College of Cardinals in October of 1978, Cardinal Wojtyla, despite his status as a great spiritual leader in his archdiocese, had no reason to believe that he would emerge as Pope when white smoke would emerge from the stovepipe at the top of the Sistine Chapel. He would soon be surprised.

It is believed that as the ballots were held, counted and revoted and the votes in conclave crept steadily higher and higher for Cardinal Wojtyla, he became more and more concerned. It is not known for certain, but it is believed that Cardinal Wojtyla, when he initially received the required number of votes to be elected, asked for some time to pray and contemplate the decision of whether or not to accept, and may well have asked for a final vote to confirm the cardinals' decision.

It is undeniable, Mr. Speaker, that Pope John Paul II made major contributions to the demise of totalitarian communism, a system in which the state claims ownership of everything physical and attempts to exert control over everything intellectual. In such a system, no one may express belief in anything other than Marxism, and the suppression of free thought and individual liberty are its exclusive goals. The Church, first in Poland and then elsewhere, broke through these controls by offering people a safe place to meet and a new vision of the world. The Church soon became not only a place of worship but it became a place where writers, artists, and playwrights

could have their works read, seen, and heard.

In helping to create a more open society, the priests of these churches followed the example of John Paul II, who as young Karol Wojtyla in Communist Poland, secretly studied for the priesthood and founded an underground theater. This new way of thinking was not entirely religious. The Pope traveled the world, including the communist world, speaking not only of God but of history and culture, of a new civil society steeped in openness and freedom, tempered by love, forgiveness, and understanding. This new openness had a liberating impact on the oppressed of the world and a debilitating impact on their oppressors.

In the years to come, 26 years, 5 months and 17 days to be precise, Pope John Paul II led the faithful through an incredible period in world history, helped facilitate the end of a bitter Cold War, and helped spread peace and democracy to nations across the world. The election of Pope John Paul II took on additional significance in the context of the political situation in his homeland of Poland. Pope John Paul II strongly encouraged the Solidarity movement in Poland, led by former Gdansk electrician Lech Walesa. The Holy See gave Solidarity vital material and moral support that further legitimized the movement in the eyes of the Polish population, becoming a de facto vehicle of opposition to the Communists who, though demoralized, remained in power in Poland.

I remember vividly the image of Walesa kneeling before the Pope to pay homage to him and seeing the Pope practically lift Walesa off his feet to embrace him, suspending the strict protocol of the Vatican to embrace the man who was leading millions of his fellow Poles toward a democratic state. Theirs was a struggle of common purpose and the Pope's willingness, indeed his steadfast insistence on using the weight of his Papacy as a counter to Communist aggression, was a vital component in ending Cold War hostilities and producing an independent Polish state.

This point is one of considerable interest to my own constituents in western New York. The history of Buffalo is one of rich and diverse ethnic neighborhoods, and western New York's Polish-American community is strong and proud today as it has been for generations. The pride in Cardinal Wojtyla's ascension to the Papacy in 1978 was felt by all of Polonia and all of western New York. It lasted throughout John Paul II's Papacy and is something felt in parishes from throughout Buffalo, Erie, and Chautauqua counties.

Speaking parochially, the future Pope visited Buffalo twice as a cardinal, once in the 1960s and again in the 1970s, visiting Polish-American churches on Buffalo's east side, where parishes still exist in which mass is said in Polish. Today, just as they did in 1978, all parishes throughout Buffalo and

western New York proudly celebrate the Papacy of John Paul II and the special connection that Buffalonians have to him and to his years as Pope.

We have to remember that Pope John Paul II was history's most traveled Pope and brought his message of faithfulness and hope to billions of people throughout the world, Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The Holy Father used his influence to mediate conflicts throughout the world and established diplomatic relations between the Holy See and more than 70 additional independent nations.

Pope John Paul II also reached out to many people of other faiths, including and especially to Jews, whom John Paul II thought were unfairly subjected to years of scorn and discrimination by Christians of all denominations. John Paul II led by example, becoming the first Pope to visit Rome's synagogue and by taking the necessary steps toward establishing diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the State of Israel. In the year 2000, John Paul II paid a visit to Jerusalem, visiting the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem; and on March 23, 2000, he paid a visit to the holiest of religious sites in Judaism, the Western Wall. At the Wall, the Pope followed tradition by leaving a written prayer at the Wall itself, seeking the Jews' forgiveness for the sins of Christians over the years, the text of which prayer follows:

"God of our fathers, You chose Abraham and his descendants to bring Your name to the nations. We are deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have created these children of Yours to suffer, and asking Your forgiveness, we wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the people of the Covenant."

We also cannot forget that John Paul II was a great spiritual leader for the youth of the world and felt a special connection to young people in pursuing his ministry. John Paul II utilized the most modern of communication tools to bring his message forth and in the mid-1980s established Catholic Youth Days throughout the world where the youngest Catholics were encouraged to participate in the faith in a manner unlike any seen previously.

It cannot be said that John Paul II's Papacy was perfect. None, possibly save for that of the first Pope, St. Peter, could possibly attain such heights. Reductions in vocations, financial improprieties, sex abuse scandals, and other issues continue to test the faith of our people; and it is unlikely that the Papacy of John Paul II, or anyone else, could deal with those concerns completely. It will be up to the new Pope, whomever he may be, to lead the Church and its faithful in the months and years to come and as a spiritual leader to help Catholics and people of all faiths to deal with the many challenges that we face.

Undeniably, Pope John Paul II's charisma and warmth drew people to his Papacy like never before. Hundreds of

millions, young and old, Christian and Jew, from every corner of the world came to worship with him, and with him join together to make the world a better place. His Papacy made people feel unafraid and challenged the faithful to go unafraid in pursuit of a better life.

Before Pope John Paul's predecessor was elevated to the Papacy, he too had misgivings about assuming the mantle of leadership that his colleagues were about to confer upon him. Albino Cardinal Luciani sat fretfully during the voting, but was approached by two friendly cardinals who offered him support. One told him not to worry, because when God gives a burden, he also gives the strength to carry it. Another told him, Don't fear, the whole world is praying for the new Pope.

As the world prays for the peaceful repose of Pope John Paul, so does the world pray for his successor to effectively and faithfully lead our Church during the months and years to come. Human though he may have been, Catholics throughout the world pray for leadership for our faith provided by Pope John Paul II. While we pray for the peaceful repose of his soul, we are confident that God, upon the appearance of Karol Wojtyla at the gates of heaven, has said the immortal words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, John Paul II was a remarkable leader whose intense faith, intellectual brilliance, and sheer physical stamina are beyond dispute. He has been an inspiration to me and to millions of others, and his leadership brought people of all faiths closer together. John Paul II was a beacon of freedom and he gave his voice to those who could not speak, especially to those who were oppressed by the brutality of Communist oppression.

In public pronouncements during his visits to Poland and at every possible opportunity, he bore a simple message: truth matters, faith matters, freedom matters and injustice must be condemned and challenged.

□ 1700

He encouraged such dissidents as Poland's Lech Walesa and Czechoslovakia's Vaclav Havel to live "as if" they were free, undermining the elaborate system of lies that the Communist system depended upon to survive. Once pretenses were stripped away, more and more people realized they were not alone. It was Pope John Paul II's courage and decisive action that nurtured Poland's Solidarity movement and served as a catalyst to the peaceful liberation of Poland and the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Pope John Paul II was the first Pope to truly take his papacy outside the Vatican and deliver his message all across the globe. He made an outstanding 104 pilgrimages to 129 countries. I had the privilege of seeing the

Pope twice, once in 1979 at a mass at Five Holy Martyrs Parish in Chicago and once at a mass at the Vatican on Christmas Eve. I am but one of millions of people worldwide who were moved by the personal experience both of his charisma and also the truth that he spoke.

Pope John Paul II broke precedent after precedent in reaching out to those of other faiths. He was the first Pope since St. Peter to visit a synagogue and the first to visit a mosque. In an extraordinary illustration of his respect for other faiths, he issued a series of papal apologies for the Church's past treatment of Jews, for the Crusades, and for the Church's role in the post-Reformation wars of religion. He understood the critical importance of forgiveness for peace, even forgiving his would-be assassin.

While some may view the Pope's statements and actions as representing an inconsistent political ideology, the truth is that everything that John Paul II did arose from one inviolable principle: Every individual has dignity, and society must constantly strive to uphold that dignity and promote a "culture of life." He understood that if the life and liberty of each person is to be protected, this principle must motivate the actions of governments.

I join my fellow Catholics and people everywhere in mourning the passing of the Holy Father. Pope John Paul II had a remarkable and blessed life, altering history and making the world a better place. But even with his death, there are still millions, including many youth, who have been inspired by his life, who will continue to strive to carry on his good work. This is a true testament to one of the greatest figures, perhaps the greatest figure, of the 20th century.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. And we all thank the gentleman for organizing this Special Order. He has already demonstrated his leadership in this Chamber simply by taking this action tonight, by leading the United States Congress in paying special tribute and honoring the life of John Paul II.

Mr. Speaker, so much has been said on this floor, on the news channels, throughout the world about the life of Pope John Paul II. And I just wanted to share with my colleagues a reminiscence that I have. I never met the Holy Father, but I did connect to him through one profound moment that I experienced when I visited the Auschwitz death camp in January with Vice President CHENEY and two Members of this body as part of the delegation of Americans who went to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp. John Paul II could not attend that event. His health did not allow him to. So he sent a special message.

That camp is located near Krakow, a community in Poland that knows the Holy Father very well. And at that camp in the middle of a rather severe snow in very cold weather, a Vatican emissary read a message from John Paul II. He talked about his own visit to Auschwitz in 1979, and he talked about how, while he made that visit, which had to be exceedingly difficult for him, he stopped before a memorial and prayed in Hebrew, and then he stopped before another memorial and prayed in Polish.

John Paul II was a builder of bridges. He was a uniter. He had a deep faith and a profound belief in concepts which guide us every day right here in this body. We start every day, and every classroom, so many classrooms throughout America start every day, by pronouncing a very simple concept: liberty and justice for all. That is something that the Holy Father believed in profoundly. Liberty and justice for all.

He believed in peace, but he also had the fortitude and the compassion and the commitment and the raw courage to oppose two of the greatest evils that the 20th Century had ever witnessed in communism and nazism. He was not simply an eyewitness to those evils. There were plenty of eyewitnesses to those evils. He was a vigorous opponent of those evils, an outspoken opponent not simply when they were occurring, but even years after they occurred, because he always wanted to remind us of our moral obligation, our fundamental moral obligation, to speak the truth against evil no matter when it occurred, where it occurred, how far back it occurred.

I want to conclude by sharing with my colleagues some statements that John Paul II has made because I think those statements continue to guide us even today even at this difficult time. The Pope understood that different people see the world through different lenses, but he fought the biases that have long characterized the fault lines of different cultures. He counseled us. This is what he said: "Peace is not built in mutual ignorance but rather in dialogue and encounter. Unity is not uniformity." He built a culture of tolerance and openness and understanding. He said, "Solidarity helps us to see the other not as an object of exploitation but as a neighbor in the banquet of life to which they are all equally invited." A very important reminder.

And, Mr. Speaker, let me close by capturing a deeply held belief of the Pope's that I have long held dear in my own service as a Member of this body. The Pope steadily and forcefully worked towards a better future for all humankind, and he saw this future embodied in our children. Those are the people that we have our most important obligation to because they are our future. The Pope said, "We must all work for a world in which no child will be deprived of peace and security, of

the right to grow up without fear and anxiety." Mr. Speaker, the greatest challenge for any generation is to leave behind a world that is better for our children than it was for us. This Pope truly understood and embraced that challenge.

We will all miss Pope John Paul II for his spirituality, for his dignity, for his convictions, for his leadership, and for his profound humanity. But much as his faith indicates that his soul will live on eternally, the impetus and legacy of his principled life will live on eternally here on Earth.

I again thank the gentleman for his leadership in organizing this Special Order.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from New York for having this Special Order.

I grew up going to Catholic school, 12 years of Catholic school at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Grade School and John F. Kennedy High School, and I received my first holy communion under this Pope. I was confirmed under this Pope, and I was married under this Pope. And for those of us who are involved in the political system, not only here but around the world, one of the things we tend to notice is that in many ways international figures are inconsistent. And I think as we celebrate the life of this great Pope and this great statesman, I think it is important for us to recognize his consistency and how he was consistent with all of his philosophies through the Church and through his life. And whether one always agreed with this Pope or not, regardless of the political pressure that was being put from certain quarters in certain interest groups on certain countries, the Pope was always very consistent.

He was prolife on abortion. He was prolife on the death penalty. He understood that we honor not only the Holy Church, but God and the rest of us through our actions, and this Pope, through his actions, and what he advocated for, always for the poor, always for the disenfranchised, always for the workers, always for those people who did not have a voice, this Pope did not have to worry about the political implications, and he acted out of a position of love, and he did not always do it when it was just convenient for him or for the Church. And that is very important.

When the war in Iraq came before this Chamber and came before the international community, it was this Pope who took a firm position. And, interestingly enough, throughout the war it was this Pope who was one of the only international leaders we would hear talk about the innocent civilians who were getting killed throughout the war in Iraq. And whether or not the war was justified is a debate for this Chamber, but I think it is important for us to recognize that this Pope understood that those innocent lives were

God's children, too, and the Pope made sure that the conscience of the world paid attention to that.

One or two final points about the example of this Pope. A lot of religious issues and a lot of religious connotations have been made over the past few years and have made their way to the forefront of our political discourse here. And I think this Pope has taught us through his life on how we have to understand and utilize a religion consistently and the philosophies consistently.

But on the issues of Christianity, the issues of nonjudgment, which is the highest ideal of the Christian faith, not to judge, and for this Pope to go to the mosque, to go to the synagogue, to disagree with one on issues of the day, but yet never judge one personally or never judge one's country personally is a lesson for all of us. The man who spoke for the poor, the man who spoke for the disenfranchised, the man who spoke for the workers, and the man who taught my generation of service, and in the Catholic schools and in the Catholic Church one of the great doctrines is that we have a responsibility regardless of what we are doing to make money or to protect one's family or to help one's family survive, we have an obligation in some capacity to serve others. And this Pope in many ways served all of us with his intellect, with his knowledge, with his commitment, with his example of nonjudgment and tolerance.

We have a lot that we can digest that this Pope has shown us, and I hope that those of us in this body and around the world will use this celebration as an opportunity to get to know this Pope in a better way and a deeper way and hopefully implement his example in the day-to-day workings of this Chamber.

I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding to me.

□ 1715

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my upcoming Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

#### TRIBUTE TO POPE JOHN PAUL II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL).

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Arizona for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Pope John Paul II. I served as an altar boy as a child, was educated by the Jesuit priests, and as a Roman Catholic I admired this man for his unwavering faith, extreme determination, and belief in the culture of life. His service to the Church and his dedication to freedom for all individuals are legacies the world will remember and honor for decades to come.

As the Holy Father once said, "Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought."

Ten years ago, my wife, Linda, and I had the honor of a private audience with the Pope where we came to believe even more in his efforts to speak out strongly in favor of human rights as he stood firmly with the United States in defeating communism and spreading democracy across our globe.

This son of Poland served as a beacon of light to the world's oppressed and unborn. In life, as in death, the youth of the world loved this Pope. He too loved them and believed, "As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live."

His message on the sanctity of human life and social justice served as a rallying cry for millions looking for an advocate for the defenseless and the weak. He gave a voice to the silenced and provided hope to the hopeless.

Pope John Paul II appealed to the better nature of man. Humanity was well served by his Papacy. With his passing, let us celebrate his service to all mankind and listen quietly as the angels in heaven sing in joy as he ascends to touch the face of God.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, we are here to honor the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II, and I am joined by several of our colleagues here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, we often get materials and letters from our constituencies, and sometimes even from other States. Although I represent Arizona, a close friend of mine from California, Kevin Rishell, wrote us a poem today related to Pope John Paul II, and it seemed appropriate to read. So I am going to start with that:

"Pope John Paul II.

A man of simple convictions,  
A man of great love and peace;  
A father to the nations,  
A friend now at last released.  
Into the arms of his beloved Savior;  
Into history,  
With God's tender favor.  
'Well done' faithful servant,  
Echoes 'cross Heaven's portals;  
As John Paul is welcomed,  
By friends and other immortals.  
His life was a service to God,  
And to his neighbors;  
To the weak and to the poor,  
And dearly loved unbelievers.  
For he believed that all life,  
Had a godly purpose;  
That all life was special,

And that God was never spurious.

For he understood clearly,  
The vain rantings of men;  
How popular their wisdom,  
Seemed to change with the wind.  
But he held true to his course,  
In the most turbulent times;  
With God's Word as his pilot,  
And the Holy Spirit as his guide.  
In faith, he stood against evil,  
When it could have cost him his life;  
And for decades and more,  
He fought for what was right.  
For God was his center,  
And Jesus was his friend;  
And the Comforter never left him,  
From birth to honored end.  
For he was on a holy quest,  
Of nearly mythic proportions;  
A man with a great commission,  
Teaching truth and sacred traditions.  
He knew where he came from,  
And he knew where he would go;  
Secure in Christ, adored by the masses,  
This humble shepherd-soul.  
But now his journey's over,  
A final appointment he will keep;  
A righteous servant to his Master,  
In whose arms he will now rest and sleep.  
While leaving a beautiful legacy,  
Of honor and valiant grace;  
That will live on beyond this tribute,  
A priestly mantle so hard to replace.  
We will miss you Holy Father,  
We will miss your humor and your passion;  
We will miss your concern for personal details,  
And your courage to speak and to take action.  
But now you have fought your good fight,  
And you have finished your race;  
We thank you for your example,  
And pray God bless you for your faith.  
Via con Dios, my precious brother,  
Go with God my blessed friend;  
Shalom to you my loving confessor,  
Be at peace and as you always said, 'Amen.'"

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and gratitude that I now personally rise to commend to the ages the life of Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II lived an intentional life. Too often today, we spend our lives in a reactive state, with daily events and crises drowning out the reflection and study which are required to live an intentional life.

The Pope did not fall into this trap of the immediate. He instead considered his life's great questions and, after seeking guidance in Holy Scripture and through prayer, he steadfastly stayed wisdom's course.

Mr. Speaker, by now the narrative of the Pope's life has become well-known. Growing up in Poland, he had firsthand experience with two of the 20th century's most horrible totalitarian creations, that being Nazism and Soviet Communism. Living under these systems as a young man, he saw in detail not only the physical corrosion wrought by these systems of government, but the spiritual and social decay they engendered as well.

He looked beyond the jackboots and the tanks and saw that the real power of these regimes stemmed not from physical force, but from an intellectual climate that was stripping the humanness from humanity. Karol Wojtyla dedicated himself to fighting this evil,

not with force of might, but through prayer, availing his heart, soul and mind unto God, and in serving his fellow human beings.

He exemplified what the Holy Scripture exhorts from man: "To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God." He sought for justice to be done and the truth to be told by placing a handwritten acknowledgment of Christian sins against the Jewish people in a crevice of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, and in his admonishment of the kneeling Father Ernesto Cardenal, the Sandinista Culture Minister in Nicaragua.

He demonstrated mercy, and after recovering from his wounds from the assassination attempt on his life by Mehmet Ali Agca, he visited this deranged Turk in prison. He visited him, and then he forgave him.

And he walked humbly, Mr. Speaker, allowing all of us to watch as he deteriorated physically right before our eyes, believing that those who follow Christ, as Christ himself taught, must sometimes endure suffering.

Karol Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II in 1978, and held the Chair of Saint Peter for more than 26 years. At the beginning of his Papacy, the totalitarianism that had colored his youth was on the march throughout the world. Previously free people were being enslaved by Soviet Communism with alarming regularity. However, the Soviet Union had reached its zenith, and soon would crumble, due in large part to the efforts of a triumvirate of courageous and noble leaders: Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and this new Pope, John Paul II.

He chose to attack the intellectual moorings of totalitarianism; thus he could eliminate the power structure that it rested upon.

He opposed abortion, believing innocent human life was sacred and that the casual elimination of the weak is the first step on the path that leads to the enslavement of all. One of the great teaching documents of his pontificate, "Evangelium Vitae," stated: "Life, especially human life, belongs only to God; for this reason, whoever attacks human life in some way attacks God himself."

He opposed liberal theology, firmly believing that a Church which did not stand up for its core doctrines would be unlikely to stand up to evil in the world. And he encouraged us all to do the same, stating that "freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought." And kindly but boldly he encouraged us not to be afraid, stating: "Have no fear of moving into the unknown. Simply step out fearlessly knowing that God is with you, therefore no harm can befall you; all is very, very well. Do this in complete faith and confidence."

He demonstrated this full and complete trust in God, and from his first appearance on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica proclaimed that "Christ, Christ is the answer."

He was a friend of the United States, not out of blind loyalty, but out of a recognition that "radical changes in world politics leave America with a heightened responsibility to be for the world an example of genuinely free, democratic, just and humane society."

And he admonished and cautioned us that it is not enough to speak about freedom, but that freedom must have a purpose, stating: "When freedom does not have a purpose, when it does not wish to know anything about the rule of law engraved in the hearts of men and women, when it does not listen to the voice of conscience, it turns against humanity and society."

Perhaps one of the most fitting tributes to this great man can be found in the news coverage of his death. While the Free World celebrates his legacy and openly mourns his passing, states such as China, which still hold much of their population in the dehumanizing chains of Marxism, do the best to stifle these reports. It seems fitting that the only countries to bar a Papal visit were China, North Korea, Vietnam, and post-Communist Russia.

Those leaders know that John Paul II lived a life in accordance with a view that rejected dehumanizing chains, because man was created to be free, and even though he has passed from this life and into the next, his world view remains, and his courage in the face of death is a powerful symbol of that world view.

The oppressors realize that if their subjects witness this courageous man and embrace his vision of humanity that their days will be numbered. We should all pray that they do.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we should all take great comfort and gain great courage with the Pope's words of hope to all of us. He said, "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." I am certain that he is right now joined by a multitude of others singing "Hallelujah" to the One he dedicated his life to.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN).

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Pope John Paul II. The Holy Father held a special place in the hearts of more than 1 billion Catholics worldwide. For many younger people, he was the only Pope they had ever known. However, his influence was by no means limited to the Catholic community. Rather, his moral courage and spiritual passion gave encouragement, clarity, and strength to people around the globe.

My hometown of St. Louis was honored by a visit by the Pope in January of 1999. The arrival of the Pope to the birthplace of the first cathedral west of the Mississippi was truly an honor and Americans poured into St. Louis to participate in prayer services, a rally and celebration mass.

Of particular note was the enthusiasm of the young people who came to a rally held in St. Louis on the evening of January 26, 1999. Reaching out to young people truly seemed to be a characteristic of this Pope.

The Holy Father spoke not only to the Catholic community, but to men and women of conscience on every continent. Most notable may be his courage in standing for a culture of life, as well as defying communism and standing in solidarity with those opposed to that great evil. That courage will be noted in history as a fulcrum that turned the wheel of history from dictatorship to freedom.

His defense of the culture of life is best embodied in his own words given in October 1979 right here in Washington, D.C.

□ 1730

Let me quote just for a moment. "I do not hesitate to proclaim before you and before the world that all human life is sacred, because human life is created in the image and likeness of God. And so, we will stand up every time that human life is threatened. When the sacredness of life before birth is attacked, we will stand up and proclaim that no one ever has the authority to destroy unborn human life."

In recent decades I believe there have been no more stirring or inspiring words to encourage those of us who believe in protecting unborn life than these. The Pope's consistent fight for the sanctity of life never wavered. His defense of life extended from the moment of conception to natural death. His heart was always toward the weak and powerless, those whose voices were silenced cruelly or unjustly.

The same defiant commitment to human dignity animated his resolve to oppose communism. In the 1980s, communism faced three implacable foes: Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Pope John Paul II. The Pope's courageous and historic leadership emboldened the downtrodden people of Poland and all of Eastern Europe to say, "Enough." He deserves the thanks of all people for that critical role in consigning the former Soviet Union and its satellite dictatorships in human memory.

Pope John Paul will be fondly remembered as a person of great energy and courage and faith, a man who did not shrink from fascism when he entered into an underground seminary in Poland during Nazi occupation, nor from communism when he challenged the world to rid itself of that evil. In his final years, he countenanced great personal suffering with great dignity. He died as he lived, with bravery and faith.

Today we honor his memory. May we always honor his legacy.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay my respects to one of



the world's greatest spiritual leaders, Pope John Paul II.

The Pope was a wonderful humanitarian who was much more than just a leader of the Catholic Church and its 1 billion members around the globe. He was a servant of God, whose purpose in life was to work on behalf of all of humanity.

John Paul II was a courageous man, courageous all his life, who worked to make the world a better place by fighting for basic human rights, such as the right to freedom from oppression. Having grown up under nazism and communism, he understood firsthand the negative effects of totalitarian rule. He inspired a "revolution of conscience" in his home country of Poland, which Lech Walesa credits helped bring about the fall of communism.

The Pope was not afraid to take a tough stand and challenge dictators face to face. His criticism of rulers such as Alfred Stroessner in Paraguay, Augusto Pinochet in Chile, and Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines encouraged opposition movements that eventually led to the demise of their regimes.

The Pope was also a staunch advocate of the right to life. He constantly challenged people to foster a culture of life. Ten years ago John Paul II stated, "We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life.'" He challenged that, "We are all involved and we all share the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally prolife." I deeply admire the Pope for taking this stand.

In a society often characterized by worldliness, the Pope stood as a symbol of morality, integrity, and faith. John Paul II was not someone who acted in accordance with public opinion polls. He did what he knew was right, and he spoke with conviction. Even if people did not agree with him on every issue, they respected him and admired him.

No one in our lifetime has been a better role model for us all. He was, all his life, to the end of his life, a teacher and a servant. I join with the rest of the world in mourning his loss.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) took the time and the effort to reserve an hour so that we could take the time to pay tribute to a man who has given us so much, to celebrate his life and to lay out for the people of the world how much he truly sacrificed and gave.

I had the honor to visit with him in Rome at Christmas of 2003. I accompanied a delegation of a couple of Congressmen who went over and who brought a House Resolution that signified and thanked him for 25 years of public service, of being that spiritual warrior that we all embraced. It was an honor to be with him. In his presence,

you felt that holiness. You felt the holiness of a man of deep prayer, a man of hard work and conviction, a man who did not sway in the wind and who was not forced by modernization, by the tides of modern theology that we have seen.

When I heard of his death, I was in Panama just a few days ago. I was fortunate to be with the large Latino population, one of the fastest-growing populations in the Catholic Church, who turned out and who truly mourned his death. Monday I was in Mexico City, and I had an opportunity to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I watched a poor Mexican family on their knees, walking on their knees in pain and in suffering, to show personal sacrifice to honor the life of this Pope. And with the few small dollars that they had left, they bought several candles and placed them at the statue of John Paul II in Mexico City. A true tribute for those who have so little to give so much.

It is interesting that the Pope's last teaching, the last formal message that came out of Rome, dealt with the life of Terri Schiavo. It is interesting that the message that came from this Pope was that we should not so swiftly embrace the culture of death. As a Roman Catholic, as a father of 12 children, I am so grateful that his last teaching will be that of life, that we embrace innocence, that we look to help the unborn; that we treat all life, whether it be disabled or whether it be strong and healthy, with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, this public servant sent a powerful message each time he rose, even when he was then himself disabled. I found him to be noble and kind. I found his humility to be a great example that led our world. When we look at what he did to fight against the evils against democracy, especially with the Iron Curtain, the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany; each of them owe a portion of their freedom to this champion. Each of them owe a portion to the tolerance and forgiveness, the releasing of the evil grip of communism, to this champion. He told them not to be afraid. In doing so, he moved masses into solidarity and unleashed the evils of Communists.

He personally survived the Nazi bloodlust that swept through his native Poland, and he survived the Iron Curtain which attempted to strangle the free spirit of men. His life will be honored in our work to continue that struggle, to fight daily for the free spirit of men all over the world who continue to be repressed. He was unafraid because he believed in God. Through prayer, he received courage from the true source; true courage comes to those who pray, true bravery to those who pray.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), my neighbor, we both know that angels feel no injury. Angels are created and cannot

be hurt. Angels do not bleed. True bravery can only be shown by moral men and women. This man showed true bravery, and it was because of that courage through prayer that he received.

When he was in Rome in May of 1981, when the attempted assassination was made on his life, he spent 20 days in the hospital. He showed us the power of perseverance. He spent the rest of his life showing us the power of forgiveness, especially when he met with his would-be assassin.

So while we are saddened by his passing, we celebrate his life. We continue to be encouraged by his teachings, and we allow his powerful spirit to inspire us daily to strive for goodness, for humility, for forgiveness and for justice. I love this champion of freedom and life. I love the fact that God sent us a spiritual warrior who fought for the good, a warrior whose most powerful weapons was that of peaceful prayer, peaceful words, solidarity, and the teachings of life.

I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) for setting aside this hour and for allowing us to give a small tribute to the life of John Paul II.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank my distinguished colleague from Arizona for organizing this time for us to pay our respects to a man who has had a profound impact on our world and a profound impact on the oppressed throughout this world.

We feel sad because of our loss, but this is natural. But we should, in fact, rejoice, for I have no doubt that this great son of Poland has ascended into heaven and has been welcomed home by our Lord, whom he did so much to serve with his life that he was given.

We should not dwell on our loss, but we should rejoice for all the years we were privileged to know him, to see him, to hear him, and to learn from his example. We should rejoice in the strength he had inspired by his faith and conviction to suffer through Parkinson's for so many years, to survive an assassination attempt, and the unsurpassed Christian spirit to confront his nearly successful assassin and forgive him and pray with him, and to know that he is at peace now with the Heavenly Father he so nobly and humbly served.

It is difficult to remember what the world was like before we had the example of our Pope a scant 27 years ago. The year he was chosen, Iranian protests were brewing that would lead to the imminent fall of the Shah, usher in the ayatollahs, and produce an era of war and terror. The Soviet Union was jailing religious dissidents and staging coups such as that which they nurtured in Afghanistan and followed with a full-fledged invasion.

Before John Paul II, we did not yet have the vision and the leadership of

Ronald Reagan nor of Margaret Thatcher, who, together with them, he would usher in the end to the Cold War. We were told that the West was in irreversible decline, and that the freedom bequeathed to us as an inalienable right, preserved and protected by the wisdom of the people assembled in democratic government, had failed. The peoples of the world were being told that individual dignities should be subjugated to the collective. It seemed that the only religion was that of the state, and that it was to the state that people thought we should direct our worship.

A young Pole named Lech Walesa had not yet dreamed that a simple concept like solidarity could overcome the awesome forces of fear and oppression that were the Soviet system; that is, until another son of Poland had ascended to the throne of St. Peter and did what he would do for the rest of his life: He provided the world with a brilliant example of the best of humanity.

John Paul II knew better than the conventional wisdom of the intelligentsia, of those who had surrendered their birthright, who had chosen to obey the commands of the state, who had ceased to recognize the demands of the respect for human dignity.

□ 1745

He believed that communism would fall and freedom reign, because communism at its core represented a false understanding of human nature. He knew that totalitarianism in all of its forms would fall. He was in a position to know this because of the cruel and harsh experience he gained having seen them both up front and close as a youth, as Poland was plagued by both Nazi fascism and then communism.

He saw from an up-close vantage what is possible when authority is perverted to a philosophy contemptuous of life. He wrote to a friend, while a cardinal, that a degradation, indeed a pulverization, of the fundamental uniqueness of each human person was at the heart of the sickness in the human heart that made the tragedies of the 20th century possible; that when this happens, as it did in the totalitarianism ideologies of communism and fascism, the result was the unnatural death of 120 million people in Europe and Asia.

This truth is epitomized in an image seared in the collective memory of the world, when the Pope went to the Holy Land, bowed in remembrance over the memorial flame in Yad Vashem, the Jewish Holocaust memorial.

The experience of this youth informed his mission as a Pontiff and was made possible because of his indomitable faith in the Creator.

He fiercely pursued an agenda that life in all of its forms is sacred because it is created by God, especially human life, which is created in his image. Stalin once derisively remarked that the Pope was a relatively powerless person, a mere figurehead, once famously ask-

ing an aide, how many divisions does he have?

Stalin never had to come to face John Paul II, but later communist leaders would come to know the danger posed by this man and what he represented on Earth and in heaven. They knew that if the Church led by this man was not dealt with sooner or later, it would destroy them throughout the world where the people would travel to places where people were trapped under communism, and totalitarianism parts of the world that did not dare have hope until they saw John Paul II.

The power was understood by those tyrants who feared that John Paul II would come to them, would visit their land and inspire those people. This was understood by the communist masters of Poland, when the newly installed Pope made his first visit there in 1979, returning to the land of his youth, of his first flock as a young priest.

The Soviet system knew that it had met its match when one-third of all of the people in Poland turned out to witness the homecoming of their native son. The only thing for the Soviets to do was to tremble, and the trembling that started that day did not end until the Berlin Wall came down 12 years later.

The last few outposts of repression that remain in our world today deeply fear the loss of their power by the words and the actions of a simple man who would bring a measure of freedom. It was a simple, yet eternal, message of faith in the almighty. It almost defies our pitiful ability to comprehend just how different the world is today as we celebrate this man's life and mourn our having lost him.

On my bookshelf at home I have a well-read book of George Geigel's biography of John Paul II titled, I think appropriately, "Witness to Hope." Billions of people around the world saw this man in that way, whether in the full vigor of his youthful pontificate or in his advanced years. For billions of people around the world, the sight of this man was to see hope. He stood for Catholicism and all of the principles; yet he was appreciated by all people around the world.

Here was a man who, while standing for his faith, brought the essence of freedom to everyone unapologetically. His 26-year Papacy saw him take this message to every corner of the world. He was seen by more of his flock than perhaps all of his 263 predecessors combined. He reached out to Jews, Muslims, Protestants, and the Eastern Orthodox Church. He took the time to learn at least a few phrases in over 100 different languages just so that he could communicate his message of hope at every place that he visited.

His message of human dignity is understood in every language, and it was understood in every land he saw during the generation he served humanity and God as the bishop of Rome.

In one of his many writings, he argued that humanity is right to seed

freedom, but only if it is a freedom that is used to do justice. And justice, as he reminded us, is to confer, preserve, protect, prolong, and give meaning and value to life.

The spread of freedom will continue unabated in his absence. It will continue to inspire by his example as America leads a providential mission that humanity will only know peace and prosperity when every one of God's children knows the freedom and enjoys the dignity bestowed on them by their heavenly Father.

We thank our heavenly Father that we were able to know this man and to benefit by his love for us and the love of God. We will profit and do service to our children if we remember the words of this man who will soon be known across history as John Paul the Great.

Freedom has continually to be won; it cannot merely be possessed. It comes as a gift, but can only be kept with a struggle. Gift and struggle are written into pages, hidden yet open.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I now yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for organizing this special hour that we have here in the United States Congress to commemorate the life of a man so well lived, I am hard pressed to even suggest another individual contemporary of mine who can compete in that category, a life extraordinarily well lived, a life that began in Poland in 1920, May 18, a month after my mother was born.

And as he lived through that life in Poland, and he saw the Nazi pressure come on the border, and as that border pressure became the invasion of Poland in September of 1939, he was a young man, a young man the son of a poor soldier, a young man who was at that time already a theologian, a student, a philosopher, an actor, and a writer of plays.

And as the Nazis occupied Poland through that period of time, during the Second World War, some of that work needed to go underground. It needed to stay underground when the Soviets took over.

But he lived a life where he saw the Nazi Holocaust, he saw the totalitarianism that came with the Nazis, and he saw the oppression that came with the communists and the Soviet Union. It gave him a perspective that could not be gained perhaps anywhere else on the planet but there.

And those of us who believe in providence know very well that God put him there. And he put him there for us, for so many things that we have benefited from over those ensuing years, those 65 years from 1920 until 1985, as he lived underneath the Nazis and the Soviet Union, and underneath the totalitarianism that came with that.

Yet he emerged as Pope, unheard of, unheard of and unnamed. In fact, I have an interesting personal anecdote to this, that Pope John Paul now referred to as the first, lived only 32 days

after he was named Pope, and ascended to the Papacy and died, another period of time, we were in that unknown period of time when we did not know who the next Pope would be. That went on for days and several weeks.

Early in that process I had no idea who the next Pope would be. I had not even looked at names or studied that or tried to handicap that decision that would come out of the conclave. But I remember that I had a dream one night, and I woke up in the morning and I said to my wife, Marilyn, I said, I had a funny dream last night. I dreamed that our new Pope would be Polish, and he named himself John Paul II.

And we laughed. It sounded so ridiculous that there would be a Pope who wasn't named, and especially from Poland that would ascend to the Papacy. And that joke was a joke amongst us. And then when he was named Pope, a Polish Pope, John Paul II, and that little insight came true, I had no idea what kind of a man he would be; but one of the first things he did in his first foreign trip was go back to Poland. There he was seen by one-third of the population of Poland, and the stops that he made people coming out of the mountains by the millions.

They wore their best holiday clothing. They played musical instruments, a great celebration and honor for this Pope. The son of Poland had returned as his first foreign trip from the Vatican.

And his message was, Be not afraid. Today we hear that message in the countries around the world. If you can lift that veil of fear, if you can lift it in East Germany, or if you can lift it in Iraq or Iran or Lebanon today when people are no longer afraid, they can do great things.

And that "be not afraid" message is the message that we hear every time from the mainstream news media today when they say the veil of fear has been lifted off of Lebanon today, that is the people's message. That is Pope John Paul II's message from 1978 that still echoes and still inspires for freedom. Be not afraid. If you would listen to Lech Walesa today, all the times that they tried to organize Solidarity in Poland and were unable to do so until Pope John Paul came and carried that message.

And people stood up and his message also was, be peaceful. We do not need a violent revolution. We need a peaceful revolution of people who are not afraid. That message of be not afraid brought Poland into freedom for the first of the Eastern Bloc countries. And that message of, be not afraid when the Wall came down on November 9 of 1989, and the people crawled over the Wall and climbed on it and celebrated and chiseled pieces out of it, and I have a piece of the Berlin Wall in my office here in Congress, and that piece symbolizes the single most significant historical event in my lifetime, the end of the Cold War.

When that Wall came down, the Iron Curtain came crashing down. It could not have come down without Pope John Paul and his message. And it was a historical miracle the way that freedom echoed across the Eastern European nations, the square in Prague, people rattling their keys. They held their keys in the air, and shook their keys. They shook their keys for freedom the way that they held up the color orange in the Ukraine, which we heard from today; and the way they waved the Lebanese flag in the square in Beirut today, that was a peaceful assembly of freedom in Prague growing from and being from that inspiration of be not afraid, be courageous.

He was consistent; he believed in the principles of the Bible and the Church as being immortal and faced with the modern religion that says that the Bible needs to be read in light of contemporary values. He rejected that kind of philosophy because the Church has to stand for timeless values, not changing and fluctuating values.

His courage in the face of life, on the issue of marriage, the issue of peace, all of those things together, the sanctity of human life has been an inspiration for many of us on marriage and the family.

This was an issue that floated across this country throughout the last elections. And 11 States went to the polls and said they stood for marriage; many of those people went to the polls inspired by John Paul II and his consistency in values, his consistency in faith, his consistency in the value of human life and how important the family is as the unit, the unit through which all of our values, our religious values, our work ethic, our culture as a people, flows through that unit of a man and a woman joined together in holy matrimony and children, and passing those values along to the next generation. That human unit of the nuclear family is the key to civilization.

And if we fail in his message to hold our families together in this country and on this planet, we have failed humanity. That is part of the legacy as well as the inspiration to stand with those principles. There was no compromise with evil with John Paul II. He knew evil. He faced evil daily, and he stood for peaceful and high godly purposes. There was no compromise with wrong. If you compromise with wrong, it becomes part wrong. If it is part wrong, it is all wrong.

□ 1800

He stood with those principles that consist in ethic of the Catholic Church. It is the sanctity of human life, and no one could have stood for that any greater than John Paul II. We stand here today, yes, in mourning, but in great celebration, great celebration for a life so well lived that we can give thanks to his legacy for time immemorial, and I pray that we will also refer to him as John Paul, the Great.

I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) yielding.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I want to just thank all of my colleagues that joined in this tribute to this noble leader of over a billion Catholics, and I just suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is one Baptist who is very grateful that Karol Wojtyla walked our way.

We are grateful for his courage to stand against the Soviet communism. We are grateful for his courage to stand against the Nazis. We are grateful for his courage to stand for that *imago dei*, that image of God, in every human being, for his commitment to human dignity.

We are grateful most of all, Mr. Speaker, that he reminded us that we are the Easter people, that ours is a solemn hallelujah, and that we need never be afraid again.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all my colleagues, I wish this great, noble leader an eternal godspeed and a conviction that he has heard those words that are the greatest words any human being can hear, and that being, Well done, thou good and faithful servant.

#### THE ORDEAL OF TERRI SCHIAVO AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today in this Special Order I want to address two subjects, the first being the ordeal of Terri Schiavo and the right-to-life issue.

Mr. Speaker, clearly no one wins in the legal and political battles over the death of Terri Schiavo. Although it has been terribly politicized, a valuable debate has emerged. This debate is not about abortion or euthanasia in general, nor about death in the abstract. It is about an individual's right to life and the value of life itself. Without concern for the life of each, individual liberty is meaningless and indefensible.

This debate deals with the passive treatment of the critically and terminally ill. This type of decision is manageable most of the time without government interference, but circumstances in this case made it difficult to determine proper guardianship. The unprecedented level of government involvement, questions about which branch of government had the ultimate say, and what the explicit intent of the patient was brought national attention to what was otherwise a family conflict.

Terri Schiavo is a unique case, and, unfortunately, her fate ended up in the hands of the lawyers, the judges and the legislators. The media certainly did their part in disrupting her final days.

In a free society, the doctor and the patient, or his or her designated spokesperson, make the decision, short of using violence, in dealing with death and dying issues. The government stays out of it.

This debate, though, shows that one life is indeed important. It is not an esoteric subject. It is a real life involved and a personal issue we cannot ignore, especially in this age of Medicare, with government now responsible for most of the medical bills.

We are rapidly moving toward a time when these decisions will be based on the cost of care alone, since government pays all the bills under national health care. As we defer to the state for our needs, and parental power is transferred to government, it is casually expected that government will be making more and more of these decisions. This has occurred in education, general medical care and psychological testing. The government now can protect the so-called right of a teenager to have an abortion, sometimes paid for by the government, without notifying the parents.

Free-market medicine is not perfect, but it is the best system to sort out these difficult problems, and it did so for years.

Eventually government medicine surely will ignore the concern for a single patient as a person, and instead, a computer program and cost analysis will make the determination. It will be said to be more efficient, though morally unjustified, to allow a patient to die by court order rather than permitting family and friends to assume responsibility for the cost of keeping patients alive.

There is plenty of hypocrisy to go around on both sides of this lingering and prolonged debate. In this instance, we heard some very sound arguments from the left defending States rights and family responsibility while criticizing the Federal Government involvement. I am anxious for the day when those who made these arguments join me in defending the Constitution and States rights, especially the 9th and 10th amendment, on many other economic and social issues. I will not hold my breath.

More importantly, where are those who rightfully condemn congressional meddling in the Schiavo case because of federalism and separation of powers on the issue of abortion? These same folks strongly defend *Roe v. Wade* and the so-called constitutional right to abort healthy human fetuses at any stage. There is no hesitation to demand support of this phony right from both Congress and the Federal courts. Not only do they demand Federal legal protection for abortion, they insist that abortion foes be forced to fund this act that many of them equate with murder.

It is too bad that philosophic consistency and strict adherence to the Constitution are not a high priority for many Members, but perhaps this flexibility in administering the rule of law helps create problems such as we faced in the Schiavo ordeal.

Though the left produced some outstanding arguments for the Federal Government staying out of this con-

troversy, they frequently used an analogy that could never persuade those of us who believe in a free society guided by the constraints of the Constitution. They argued that if conservatives who supported prolonging Terri's life would only spend more money on welfare, they would demonstrate sincere concern for the right to life. This is false logic and does nothing to build the case for a local government solution to a feeding tube debate.

First, all wealth transfers depend on an authoritarian state willing to use lethal force to satisfy the politicians' notion of an unachievable fair society. Robbing Peter to pay Paul, no matter how well intentioned, can never be justified. It is theft plain and simple and morally wrong. Actually, welfare is antiprosperty so it cannot be prolife. Too often good intentions are motivated only by the good that someone believes will result from the transfer program. They never ask who must pay, who must be threatened, who must be arrested and imprisoned. They never ask whether the welfare funds taken by forcible taxation could have helped someone in a private or voluntary way.

Practically speaking, welfare rarely works. The hundreds of billions of dollars spent on the war on poverty over the last 50 years has done little to eradicate poverty. Matter of fact, worthwhile studies show that poverty is actually made worse by government efforts to eradicate poverty. Certainly the whole system does nothing to build self-esteem, and more often than not does exactly the opposite.

My suggestion to my colleagues who did argue convincingly that Congress should not be involved in the Schiavo case is please consider using these same arguments consistently, and avoid the false accusation that if one opposes increases in welfare, one is not prolife. Being proliberty and pro-Constitution is indeed being prolife, as well as prosperprosperty.

Conservatives, on the other hand, are equally inconsistent in their arguments for life. There is little hesitation by the conservative right to come to Congress to promote their moral agenda, even when it is not within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government to do so.

Take, for instance, the funding of faith-based charities. The process is of little concern to conservatives if their agenda is met by passing more Federal laws and increasing spending. Instead of concentrating on the repeal of *Roe v. Wade* and eliminating Federal judiciary authority over issues best dealt with at the State level, more Federal laws are passed which, strictly speaking, should not be the prerogative of the Federal Government.

The biggest shortcoming of the Christian right position is its adamancy for protecting life in its very early, late and weakened stages, while enthusiastically supporting aggressive war that results in hundreds of thou-

sands of unnecessary deaths. While the killing of the innocent unborn represents a morally decadent society, and all life deserves an advocate, including Terri Schiavo, promoting a policy of deadly sanctions and all-out war against a nation that committed no act of aggression against us cannot come close to being morally consistent or defensible under our Constitution.

The one issue generally ignored in the Schiavo debate is the subtle influence the cost of care for the dying had on the debate. Government-paid care clouds the issue, and it must be noted that the courts ruled out any privately paid care for Terri. It could be embarrassing in a government-run nursing home to see some patients receiving extra care from families while others are denied the same. However, as time goes on, the economics of care will play even a greater role since under socialized medicine the state makes all the decisions based on affordability. Then there will be no debate, as we just witnessed in the case of Terri Schiavo.

Having practiced medicine in simpler times, agonizing problems like we just witnessed in this case did not arise. Yes, similar medical decisions were made and have been made for many, many years, but lawyers were not involved, nor the courts, nor the legislators, nor any part of the government; only the patient, the patient's family and the doctor. No one would have dreamed of making a Federal case of the dying process.

A society and a government that lose respect for life help create dilemmas of this sort. Today there is little respect for life; witness the number of abortions performed each year. There is little respect for liberty; witness the rules and laws that regulate our every move. There is little respect for peace; witness our eagerness to initiate war to impose our will on others. Tragically, government financing of the elderly, out of economic necessity, will usher in an age of euthanasia.

The accountants already have calculated that if the baby-boomer generation is treated to allow maximum longevity without quality of life concerns, we are talking about \$7 trillion in additional medical costs. Economists will determine the outcome, and personal decisions will vanish. National health care, of necessity, will always conflict with personal choices.

Compounding the cost problems that will lead to government-ordered euthanasia is the fact that costs always skyrocket in government-run programs. This is true whether it is a \$300 hammer for the Pentagon or an emergency room visit for a broken toe, and in addition, deficit financing, already epidemic because of our flawed philosophy of guns and butter, always leads to inflation when a country operates on a paper money system.

Without a renewal in the moral fiber of the country and respect for the constitutional rule of law, we can expect a lot more and worse problems than we

witnessed in the case of Terri Schiavo. When dying and medical care becomes solely a commercial event, we will long for the days of debating what was best for Terri.

Hopefully this messy debate will lead more Members to be convinced that all life is precious, that family and patient wishes should be respected, and that government jurisprudence and financing fall far short of providing a just solution in these difficult matters.

#### WHO'S BETTER OFF?

Mr. PAUL. On another subject dealing more with foreign policy, I would like to address what is going on in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, whenever the administration is challenged regarding the success of the Iraq War or regarding the false information used to justify the war, the retort is, "Aren't the people of Iraq better off?" The insinuation is that anyone who expresses any reservations about supporting the war is an apologist for Saddam Hussein and every ruthless act he ever committed.

The short answer to the question of whether the Iraqis are better off is that it is still too early to declare, "Mission accomplished." But more importantly, we should be asking if the mission was ever justified or legitimate in the first place. Is it legitimate to justify an action that some claim yielded good results, if the means used to achieve them are illegitimate? Do the ends justify the means?

□ 1815

The information Congress was given prior to the war was false. There were no weapons of mass destruction; the Iraqis did not participate in the 9/11 attacks; Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein were enemies and did not conspire against the United States; our security was not threatened; we were not welcomed by cheering Iraqi crowds as we were told; and Iraqi oil has not paid any of the bills.

Congress failed to declare war, but instead passed a wishy-washy resolution citing U.N. resolutions as justifications for our invasion. After the fact, now we are told the real reason for the Iraqi invasion was to spread democracy, and that the Iraqis are better off. Anyone who questions the war risks being accused of supporting Saddam Hussein, disapproving of democracy, or "supporting terrorists." It is implied that lack of enthusiasm for the war means one is not patriotic and does not support the troops. In other words, one must march lockstep with the consensus or be ostracized.

However, conceding that the world is better off without Saddam Hussein is a far cry from endorsing the foreign policy of our own government that led to regime change. In time it will become clear to everyone that support for the policies of preemptive war and interventionist nation-building will have much greater significance than the removal of Saddam Hussein itself.

The interventionist policy should be scrutinized more carefully than the

purported benefits of Saddam Hussein's removal from power. The real question ought to be this: Are we better off with a foreign policy that promotes regime change while justifying war with false information? Shifting the stated goals as events unravel should not satisfy those who believe war must be a last resort used only when our national security is threatened.

How much better off are the Iraqi people? Hundreds of thousands of former inhabitants of Fallujah are not better off with their city flattened and their homes destroyed. Hundreds of thousands are not better off living with foreign soldiers patrolling their streets, curfews, and the loss of basic utilities. A hundred thousand dead Iraqis, as estimated by the *Lancet Medical Journal*, certainly are not better off. Better to be alive under Saddam Hussein than lying cold in some grave.

Praise for the recent election in Iraq has silenced many critics of the war. Yet the election was held under martial law implemented by a foreign power, mirroring the conditions we rightfully condemned as a farce when carried out in the old Soviet system and more recently in Lebanon. Why is it that what is good for the goose is not always good for the gander?

Our government fails to recognize that legitimate elections are the consequence of freedom and that an artificial election does not create freedom. In our own history, we note that freedom was achieved first and elections followed, not the other way around.

One news report claimed that the Shiites actually received 56 percent of the vote, but such an outcome could not be allowed for it would preclude a coalition of the Kurds and the Shiites from controlling the Sunnis and preventing a theocracy from forming. This reminds us of the statements made months ago by Secretary Rumsfeld when asked about a Shiite theocracy emerging from a majority democratic vote, and he assured us that would not happen. Democracy, we know, is messy and needs tidying up a bit when we do not like the results.

Some have described Baghdad, and especially the Green Zone, as being surrounded by unmanageable territory. The highways in and out of Baghdad are not yet secure. Many anticipate a civil war will break out sometime soon in Iraq. Some claim it is already under way.

We have seen none of the promised oil production that was supposed to provide grateful Iraqis with the means to repay us for the hundreds of billions of dollars that American taxpayers have spent on the war. Some have justified our continuous presence in the Persian Gulf since 1990 because of a need to protect "our" oil. Yet now that Saddam Hussein is gone and the occupation supposedly is a great success, gasoline at the pumps is reaching record highs, approaching \$3 a gallon.

Though the Iraqi election has come and gone, there still is no government

in place and the next election, supposedly the real one, is not likely to take place on time. Do the American people have any idea who really won the dubious election at all?

The Oil-for-Food scandal under Saddam Hussein has been replaced by corruption in the distribution of U.S. funds to rebuild Iraq. Already there is an admitted \$9 billion discrepancy in the accounting of these funds. The overbilling by Halliburton is no secret, but the process has not changed.

The whole process is corrupt. It just does not make sense to most Americans to see their tax dollars used to fight an unnecessary and unjustified war. First, they see American bombs destroying a country, and then American taxpayers are required to rebuild it. Today it is easier to get funding to rebuild infrastructure in Iraq than it is to build a bridge in the United States. Indeed, we cut the Army Corps of Engineers' budget and operate on the cheap with our veterans as the expenditures in Iraq skyrocket.

One question the war promoters do not want to hear asked, because they do not want to face up to the answer, is this: Are Christian Iraqis better off today since we decided to build a new Iraq through force of arms? The answer is plainly, no.

Sure, there are 800,000 Christians living in Iraq, but under Saddam Hussein they were free to practice their religion. Tariq Aziz, a Christian, served in Saddam Hussein's cabinet as foreign minister, something that would never happen in Saudi Arabia, Israel, or any other Middle Eastern country. Today, the Christian churches in Iraq are under attack and Christians are no longer safe. Many Christians have been forced to flee Iraq and migrate to Syria. It is strange that the human rights advocates in the U.S. Congress have expressed no concern for the persecution now going on against Christians in Iraq. Both the Sunni and the Shiite Muslims support the attacks on the Christians. In fact, persecuting Christians is one of the few areas in which they agree; the other being the removal of all foreign forces from Iraqi soil.

Considering the death, destruction, and continued chaos in Iraq, it is difficult to accept the blanket statement that the Iraqis all feel much better off with the U.S. in control rather than Saddam Hussein. Security in the streets and criminal violence are not anywhere near being under control.

But there is another question that is equally important: Are the American people better off because of the Iraq war?

One thing for sure, the 1,500-plus dead American soldiers are not better off. The nearly 20,000 injured or sickened American troops are not better off. The families, the wives, the husbands, children, parents, and friends of those who lost so much are not better off. The families and the 40,000 troops who were forced to reenlist against their will, a

de facto draft, are not feeling better off. They believe they have been deceived by their enlistment agreements.

The American taxpayers are not better off having spent over \$200 billion to pursue this war, with billions yet to be spent. The victims of the inflation that always accompanies a guns-and-butter policy are already getting a dose of what will become much worse.

Are our relationships with the rest of the world better off? I would say no. Because of the war, our alliances with the Europeans are weaker than ever. The anti-American hatred among a growing number of Muslims around the world is greater than ever. This makes terrorist attacks more likely than they were before the invasion. Al Qaeda recruiting has accelerated. Iraq is being used as a training ground for the al Qaeda terrorists, which it never was under Hussein's rule.

So as our military recruitment efforts suffer, Osama bin Laden benefits by attracting pre-terrorist volunteers.

Oil was approximately \$27 a barrel before the war; now it is more than twice that. I wonder who benefits from this?

Because of the war, fewer dollars are available for real national security and defense of this country. Military spending is up, but the way the money is spent distracts from true national defense and further undermines our credibility around the world.

The ongoing war's lack of success has played a key role in diminishing morale in our military services. Recruitment is sharply down and most branches face shortages of troops. Many young Americans rightly fear a coming draft, which will be required if we do not reassess and change the unrealistic goals of our foreign policy.

The appropriations for the war are essentially off-budget and obscure, but contribute nonetheless to the runaway deficit and increase in the national debt. If these trends persist, inflation with economic stagnation will be the inevitable consequences of a misdirected policy.

One of the most significant consequences in times of war that we ought to be concerned about is the inevitable loss of personal liberty. Too often in the patriotic nationalism that accompanies armed conflict, regardless

of the cause, there is a willingness to sacrifice personal freedoms in pursuit of victory. The real irony is that we are told we go hither and yon to fight for freedom and our Constitution, while carelessly sacrificing the very freedoms here at home we are supposed to be fighting for. It makes no sense.

This willingness to give up hard-fought personal liberties has been especially noticeable in the atmosphere of the post-September 11 war on terrorism. Security has replaced liberty as our main political goal, damaging the American spirit. Sadly, the whole process is done in the name of patriotism and in a spirit of growing militant nationalism.

These attitudes and fears surrounding the 9/11 tragedy and our eagerness to go to war in the Middle East against countries not responsible for the attacks have allowed a callousness to develop in our national psyche that justifies torture and rejects due process of law for those who are suspects and not convicted criminals.

We have come to accept preemptive war as necessary, constitutional, and morally justifiable. Starting a war without a proper declaration is now of no concern to most Americans or the U.S. Congress. Let us hope and pray the rumors of an attack on Iran in June by U.S. Armed Forces are wrong.

A large segment of the Christian community and its leadership think nothing of rationalizing war in the name of a religion that prides itself on the teachings of the Prince of Peace, who instructed us that blessed are the peacemakers, not the warmongers.

We casually accept our role as world policemen and believe we have a moral obligation to practice nation-building in our image regardless of the number of people who die in the process.

We have lost our way by rejecting the beliefs that made our country great. We no longer trust in trade, friendship, peace, the Constitution, and the principle of neutrality while avoiding entangling alliances with the rest of the world. Spreading the message of hope and freedom by setting an example for the world has been replaced by a belief that the use of armed might is the only practical tool to influence the world. And we have accepted, as the only superpower, the principle of initiating war against others.

In the process, Congress and the people have endorsed a usurpation of their own authority, generously delivered to the executive and judicial branches, not to mention international government bodies. The concept of national sovereignty is now seen as an issue that concerns only the fringe in our society.

Protection of life and liberty must once again become the issue that drives political thought in this country. If this goal is replaced by an effort to promote world government, use force to plan the economy, regulate the people, and police the world against the voluntary desires of the people, it can be done only with the establishment of a totalitarian state. There is no need for that. It is up to Congress and the American people to decide our fate, and there is still time to correct our mistakes.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KIND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EDWARDS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, April 8, 2005, at 10 a.m.

#### EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the first quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

##### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. ALCEE HASTINGS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 22 AND FEB. 26, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Alcee L. Hastings .....	2/22	2/26	Austria .....	583.68	760.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	583.68	760.00
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	760.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	760.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.



April 6, 2005

# CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

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## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. FRED TURNER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 23 AND FEB. 26, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Fred L. Turner .....	2/23	2/26	Austria .....	436.05	570.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	436.05	570.00
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	570.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	570.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

FRED L. TURNER, Mar. 3, 2005.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. KYLE NEVINS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 21 AND MAR. 1, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Kyle W. Nevins .....	2/21	3/1	China .....	7,388.91	894.00	.....	5,889.02	.....	.....	.....	6,783.02
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	894.00	.....	5,889.02	.....	.....	.....	6,783.02

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

KYLE W. NEVINS, Mar. 16, 2005.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. DAVID BELLIS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 21 AND MAR. 1, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
David Bellis .....	2/21	3/1	China .....	7,388.91	894.00	.....	5,889.02	.....	.....	.....	6,783.02
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	894.00	.....	5,889.02	.....	.....	.....	6,783.02

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DAVID BELLIS, Mar. 15, 2005.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MS. ANNE BURESH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 21 AND MAR. 1, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Anne Buresh .....	2/21	3/1	China .....	7,388.91	894.00	.....	5,507.02	.....	.....	.....	6,783.02
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	195.00	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	187.00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	894.00	.....	5,889.02	.....	.....	.....	6,783.02

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ANNE BURESH, Mar. 23, 2005.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. KENNY KRAFT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 21 AND MAR. 1, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Kenny Kraft .....	2/21	3/1	China .....	.....	894.00	.....	5,908.58	.....	.....	.....	6,802.58
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	894.00	.....	5,908.58	.....	.....	.....	6,802.58

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

KENNY KRAFT, Mar. 24, 2005.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ISRAEL, JORDAN, IRAQ, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN DEC. 13 AND DEC. 16, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Roy Blunt .....	12/13	12/14	Israel .....	.....	3,088.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,088.00
Hon. Steny Hoyer .....	12/14	12/15	Jordan .....	.....	2,032.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,032.00
Hon. Ben Cardin .....	12/15	12/15	Iraq .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Tom Cole .....	12/15	12/16	Ireland .....	.....	3,032.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,032.00
Hon. Mark Kirk .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brian Gaston .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Geoff Plague .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brian Diffell .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,152.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,152.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROY BLUNT, Chairman, Jan. 14, 2005.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO MEXICO-U.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Jim Kolbe .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		797.69						797.69
Hon. Cass Ballenger .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Hon. David Dreier .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Hon. Charles Stenholm .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Hon. Joe Barton .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Hon. Donald Manzullo .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Hon. Jerry Weller .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Fran McNaught .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Patrick Baugh .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Jim Farr .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Jean Carroll .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Amy Serck .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Paul Oostburg Sanz .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Brad Smith .....	5/13	5/16	Mexico .....		335.05						335.05
Jean Carroll .....	4/29	4/30	Mexico .....				1,868.77		16.00		1,884.77
Caleb McCarr .....	4/29	4/30	Mexico .....		456.84		1,868.77		50.00		2,375.61
Patrick Baugh .....	10/20	10/22	United States .....		667.29		511.71				1,179.00
Delegation expenses:											
Representational .....									6,772.38		6,772.38
Interpreters .....									3,390.00		3,390.00
Miscellaneous .....									60.31		60.31
Payment to Treasury of accrued interest .....									192.52		192.52
Committee total .....					6,277.47		4,249.25		10,481.21		21,007.93

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JIM KOLBE, Chairman, Feb. 28, 2004.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BRITISH AMERICAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Michael Bilirakis .....	7/16	7/18	USA .....		1,561.51						1,561.51
Hon. John Boozman .....	7/16	7/18	USA .....		1,561.51						1,561.51
Hon. Vernon Ehlers .....	7/16	7/18	USA .....		1,310.54						1,310.54
Hon. Gil Gutknecht .....	7/16	7/18	USA .....		1,561.51						1,561.51
Hon. Thomas Petri .....	7/16	7/18	USA .....		1,561.51						1,561.51
Hon. Bart Stupak .....	7/16	7/18	USA .....		2,078.68						2,078.68
Debra Gebhardt .....	7/16	7/18	USA .....		1,310.54						1,310.54
Frances Marcucci .....	7/16	7/18	USA .....		1,310.54		491.20				1,801.74
Vince Morelli .....	7/16	7/18	USA .....		1,310.54						1,310.54
Walker Roberts .....	7/16	7/18	USA .....		1,310.54						1,310.54
Sam Stratman .....	7/16	7/18	USA .....		1,310.54						1,310.54
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational .....									40,645.66		40,645.66
Payment to Treasury of accrued interest .....									477.88		477.88
Miscellaneous .....									610.30		610.30
Committee total .....					16,187.96		491.20		41,733.84		58,413.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

THOMAS E. PETRI, Feb. 15, 2005.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CANADA-U.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Amo Houghton .....	06/17	06/21			1,470.87						1,470.87
Hon. Phil English .....	06/17	06/21			1,210.52						1,210.52
Hon. Eni Faleomavaega .....	06/17	06/17			261.45						261.45
Hon. Don Manzullo .....	06/17	06/21			1,059.08						1,059.08
Hon. Clay Shaw .....	06/17	06/21			1,216.36						1,216.36
Hon. Nick Smith .....	06/17	06/21			1,047.80						1,047.80
Hon. Cliff Stearns .....	06/17	06/21			1,056.07						1,056.07
Hon. Mark Souder .....	06/17	06/21			1,094.80						1,094.80
Hon. Thomas Tancredo .....	06/17	06/21			1,083.14						1,083.14
Dr. John Eisold .....	06/17	06/21			1,083.05						1,083.05
Liberty Dunn .....	06/17	06/21			1,175.47						1,175.47
Carl Ek .....	06/17	06/21			1,070.64						1,070.64
Chelsi Stevens .....	06/17	06/21			1,074.10						1,074.10
Bob Van Wicklin .....	06/18	06/21			812.73		635.70				1,448.43
Lodging and Miscellaneous .....					1,580.04						1,580.04
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational Functions .....									49,434.55		49,434.55
Miscellaneous (Payment of Accrued Interest) .....											
Committee total .....					16,296.12		635.70		49,599.99		66,531.81

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DONALD A. MANZULLO, Chairman, Mar. 10, 2005.

April 6, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

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REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Doug Bereuter .....	11/30	12/05	Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia .....				6,384.69				
	2/17	N/A	Belgium (trans. to France) .....				140.65				6,525.34
Michael Ennis .....	11/30		Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia .....				3,511.40				3,511.40
Vince Morelli .....	11/30	12/05	Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia .....				6,384.69				6,384.69
Susan Olson .....	6/30	7/03	California, United States .....		768.47		744.30				1,512.77
Patrick Prisco .....	11/11	N/A	Italy (trans. to Venice) .....				116.04				1,116.04
Mark Wellman .....	6/30	7/04	California, United States .....		653.84		890.20				1,544.04
Lodging and Miscellaneous .....					608.25						608.25
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational Functions .....									39,345.92		39,345.92
Miscellaneous .....									2,698.97		2,698.97
Committee total .....					2,030.56		18,171.97		42,044.89		62,247.42

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JOEL HEFLEY, Chairman, Mar. 7, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Chris Connelly .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		841.81						841.81
Hon. Jo Ann Davis .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		909.51						909.51
Hon. Phil English .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		944.69						944.69
Hon. Darrell Issa .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		841.27						841.27
Kay King .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		821.25						821.25
Hon. John Mica .....	11/14	11/16	United States .....		574.59						574.59
Joe Painter .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		865.45						865.45
Francis Record .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		930.20						930.20
John Walker Roberts .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		865.25						865.25
Laura Rush .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		930.77						930.77
Amy Serck .....	11/12	11/16	United States .....		1,095.00						1,095.00
Melissa Smith .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		821.25						821.25
Linda Solomon .....	11/12	11/16	United States .....		1,332.60						1,332.60
Cliff Stearns .....	11/14	11/16	United States .....		566.79		108.00				674.79
Sam Straltman .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		821.25						821.25
Hillel Weinberg .....	11/13	11/16	United States .....		821.25						821.25
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational .....					62,652.94						62,652.94
Misc. .....									508.08		508.08
Translation .....					6,100.00						6,100.00
Committee total .....					82,843.87		108.00		508.08		83,459.95

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HENRY HYDE, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BRAZIL, URUGUAY, PANAMA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 22 AND MAR. 1, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Roy Blunt .....	2/22	2/23	Brazilia, Brazil .....		2,058.28		N/A		N/A		2,058.88
Hon. Mark Foley .....	2/23	2/25	Uruguay .....		4,086.39		N/A		N/A		4,086.39
Hon. Don Sherwood .....	2/25	2/28	Brazil .....		5,181.00		N/A		N/A		5,181.00
Hon. Lacy Clay .....	2/28	3/1	Panama .....		2,596.00		N/A		N/A		2,596.00
Hon. Steve Pearce .....											
Mildred Webber .....											
Neil Bradley .....											
Brian Diffell .....											
Jessica Ballarger .....											
Dr. John Eisold .....											
Bill Livingood .....											
Committee total .....					13,922.27						13,922.27

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROY BLUNT, Chairman, Mar. 24, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BRITISH AMERICAB PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETINGS IN LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 23 AND FEB. 28, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Thomas E. Petri .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Hon. Paul Gillmor .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Hon. Joel Hefley .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Hon. Michael Bilirakis .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Hon. Dennis Moore .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Hon. John Boozman .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Hon. Randy Forbes .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Hon. John Tanner .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BRITISH AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETINGS IN LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 23 AND FEB. 28, 2005—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Debbie Gebhardt .....	2/23	2/28	United Kingdom .....		2,320.00		2,991.10				5,311.10
Fran Marcucci .....	2/23	2/28	United Kingdom .....		2,320.00		2,991.10				5,311.10
Susan Olson .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Vince Morelli .....	2/23	2/26	United Kingdom .....		1,446.00		6,087.33				7,533.33
Mark Wellman .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Beverly Hallock .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Dr. Kay King .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Kathy Becker .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Candace Bryan Abbey .....	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom .....		1,838.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,838.00
Committee total .....					31,818.00		12,069.53				43,887.53

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

THOMAS E. PETRI, Mar. 7, 2005.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1380. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 04-01, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1381. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 03-10, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1382. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 03-06, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1383. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on assistance provided by the Department of Defense to civilian sporting events in support of essential security and safety, covering the period of calendar year 2004, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2654(e); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1384. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Brigadier General Vern M. Findley II, United States Air Force, to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1385. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1386. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements for Drug Products Containing Gamma-Hydroxybutyric Acid (GHB) [Docket No. DEA-234F] (RIN: 1117-AA71) received January 10, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1387. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensa-

tion Regime [CC Docket No. 01-92] T-Mobile et al. Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Incumbent LEC Wireless Termination Tariffs — received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1388. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Rhinelander, Wisconsin) [MB Docket No. 04-288; RM-11045] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1389. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Nantucket, East Harwich, and South Chatham, Massachusetts) [MB Docket No. 02-72; RM-10399; RM-10639; RM-10640] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1390. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Lake Havasu City, Arizona, and Pahump, Nevada) [MB Docket No. 04-224; RM-10853; RM-10854] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1391. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Adams, Massachusetts) [MB Docket No. 04-357; RM-11076] (Ashtabula, Ohio) [MB Docket No. 04-358; RM-11071] (Crested Butte, Colorado) [MB Docket No. 04-359; RM-11072] (Lawrence Park, Pennsylvania) [MB Docket No. 04-360; RM-11073] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1392. A letter from the Deputy Chief, WCB/TAPD, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service [CC Docket No. 96-45] National Telephone Cooperative Association Petition for Reconsideration — received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1393. A letter from the Assistant Chief, WCB/PPD, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Presubscribed Interexchange Carrier Charges [CC Docket No. 02-53] received

March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1394. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of the Commission's Rules Concerning Airport Terminal Use Frequencies in the 450-470 MHz Band of the Private Land Mobile Radio Services [WT Docket No. 02-318; RM-10184] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1395. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — The 4.9 GHz Band Transferred from Federal Government Use [WT Docket No. 00-32] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1396. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor, International Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Procedures to Govern the Use of Satellite Earth Stations on Board Vessels in the 5925-6425 MHz/ 3700-4200 MHz Bands and 14.0-14.5 GHz/11.7-12.2 GHz Bands [IB Docket No. 02-10] received February 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1397. A letter from the Assistant Bureau Chief, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System [EB Docket No. 04-51; RM-10619] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1398. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Fort Rucker, Ozark and Slocumb, Alabama) [MB Docket No. 04-146; RM-10871] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1399. A letter from the Interim Legal Advisor, WTB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Auction of Direct Broadcast Satellite Licenses [AUC-03-52] received, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1400. A letter from the Assistant Bureau Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Flexibility of Delivery of Communications by Mobile Satellite Service Providers in the 2 GHz Band, the L-Band, and the 1.6/2.4 GHz Bands [IB Docket No. 01-185] received March 18, 2005,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1401. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — The Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State, and Local Public Safety Communication Requirements Through the Year 2010 [WT Docket No. 96-86] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1402. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Implementation of Sections 309(i) and 337 of the Communications Act of 1934 as Amended [WT Docket No. 99-87] Promotion of Spectrum Efficient Technologies on Certain Part 90 Frequencies (RM-9332) received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1403. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Kerman, California) [MB Docket No. 04-301; RM-10969] (Lockney, Texas) [MB Docket No. 04-302; RM-11020] (Lone Wolf, Oklahoma) [MB Docket No. 04-303; RM-11025] (Quanah, Texas) [MB Docket No. 04-304; RM-11021] (Orchard Mesa, Colorado) [MB Docket No. 04-306; RM-10754] (Rising Star, Texas) [MB Docket No. 04-307; RM-10982] (Twentynine Palms, California) [MB Docket No. 04-308; RM-10973] (Waterford, California) [MB Docket No. 04-309; RM-10974] Received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1404. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Gassville, Arkansas) [MB Docket No. 04-237; RM-10997] (Nantucket, Massachusetts) [MB Docket No. 04-238; RM-10997] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1405. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting the second report of 2004, as required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, Public Law 100-203, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10268; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1406. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 01-05 which informs of an intent to sign a Project Arrangement for the Australia/United States Phased Array Radar (AUSPAR) Project between the United States and Australia, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

1407. A letter from the Secretary, Department of State, transmitting notification of the convening of an Accountability Review Board to examine the facts and the circumstances of the loss of life at a U.S. mission abroad and to report and make recommendations, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 4834(d)(1); to the Committee on International Relations.

1408. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the texts of ILO Convention No. 185 Revising the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 1958, adopting this instrument at its 91st Session at Geneva, June 19, 2003, pursuant to Art. 19 of the Constitution of the International Labor Organization; to the Committee on International Relations.

1409. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to authorize appropriations for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 for the Broadcasting Board of Governors, pursuant to the U.S. Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, as amended; the Radio Broadcasting to Cuba Act, as amended; the Television Broadcasting to Cuba Act, as amended; the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994, as amended; and the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998; to the Committee on International Relations.

1410. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report entitled "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004," pursuant to Pub. L. 107-228, Sec. 638; to the Committee on International Relations.

1411. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Report on Workforce Planning for Foreign Service Personnel, pursuant to Section 601(c) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, as amended by Section 326 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2000 (Pub. L. 106-113); to the Committee on International Relations.

1412. A letter from the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an update on the progress made and the challenges that remain with the partnership with Colombia; to the Committee on International Relations.

1413. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of intent to obligate funds for purposes of Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund (NDF) activities; to the Committee on International Relations.

1414. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report of surplus real property transferred for public health purposes, including purposes authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, for October 1, 2003, through September 30, 2004, pursuant to Public Law 100-77, section 601 (101 Stat. 515); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1415. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's Combined Annual Performance Budget 2005, prepared in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act and OMB Circular No. A-11; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1416. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting justification for the Board's FY 2006 appropriation requests; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1417. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Kentucky Regulatory Program — received March 2, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1418. A letter from the Chief, Division of Scientific Authority, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Special Rule To Control the Trade of Threatened Beluga Sturgeon (Huso huso) (RIN: 1018-AT54) received March 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1419. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Colorado Regulatory Program [CO-033-FOR] received March 21, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1420. A letter from the Acting Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's

final rule — Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska, Subpart C and Subpart D — 2005-06 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Shellfish Regulations (RIN: 1018-AT46) received March 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1421. A letter from the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Probate of Indian Trust Estates (RIN: 1094-AA50) received March 2, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1422. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan [Docket No. 050216042-5042-01; I.D.021105E] (RIN: 0648-AT06) received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1423. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; 2005 and 2006 Final Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 112204A] received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1424. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041202339-4339-01; I.D.021805F] received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1425. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041202339-4339-01; I.D. 021805G] received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1426. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processor Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041202338-4338-01; I.D. 021805A] received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1427. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2005 and 2006 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No. 041126333-5040-02; I.D. 112204C] received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1428. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quota Specifications, General Category Effort Controls, and Catch-and-Release Provision [Docket No. 041203341-5047-02; I.D.

072304B] (RIN: 0648-AR86) received March 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1429. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Of Alaska; Groundfish by Vessels Using Non-Pelagic Trawl Gear in the Red King Crab Savings Subarea [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 030405A] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1430. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a draft bill entitled the "Judicial Reporting Improvement Act"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1431. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, National Safety Council, transmitting the Council's 2004 Annual Report, entitled "IMPACT"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1432. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Project Planning and Review, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of the reports of the Chief of Engineers on the projects listed in enclosure 1, consistent with Section 113 of Pub. L. 108-447, and notification that the current report of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works on these projects is still pending; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1433. A letter from the Board of Trustees, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, transmitting the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust's annual management report covering FY 2004, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231n Public Law 107-90, section 105; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1434. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a draft bill "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain rules regarding sales of property comply with conflict-of-interest requirements applicable to the federal judiciary, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1435. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting notice that the actions necessary to implement section 303 are complete, and a summary of the progress of the demonstration project thus far, pursuant to Public Law 108-203, section 303; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1436. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on Department of Defense Actions to Support Voting Assistance to Armed Forces Outside the United States, as required by Section 568 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2005; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and House Administration.

1437. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report, entitled "Medicare Contracting Reform: A Blueprint for a Better Medicare," in response to Section 911(g) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, Pub. L. 108-173; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

1438. A letter from the Chair, Commission on International Religious Freedom, transmitting the "Report on Asylum Seekers in Expedited Removal: Findings and Recommendations," pursuant to Section 605 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and the Judiciary.

1439. A letter from the Chair, Office of Compliance, transmitting a copy of the 2004

Annual Report of the Office of Compliance, pursuant to Section 301(h) of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA); jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Education and the Workforce.

1440. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2006, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(f); jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GILCHREST:

H.R. 1489. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coastal ocean observation system; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SKELTON:

H.R. 1490. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the National Defense University to award the degree of Master of Science in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. GORDON, Mr. KUHLE of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 1491. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Nanomanufacturing Investment Partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 1492. A bill to provide for the preservation of the historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. PETRI, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. NEY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. ISSA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. AKIN, and Mr. HERGER):

H.R. 1493. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce the proliferation of boutique fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. PICKERING):

H.R. 1494. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program under which up to 15 States may issue electronic Federal migratory bird hunting stamps; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 1495. A bill to amend the Military Selective Service Act to terminate the registration requirement and the activities of civilian local boards, civilian appeal boards, and similar local agencies of the Selective Service System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. MICA, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. COSTELLO, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1496. A bill to return general aviation to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida):

H.R. 1497. A bill to require the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate departments and agencies, to conduct an economic impact study on the dual gateway policy of the Government of Ireland before the United States takes any action that could lead to the discontinuation of the policy; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 1498. A bill to clarify that exchange-rate manipulation by the People's Republic of China is actionable under the countervailing duty provisions and the product-specific safeguard mechanisms of the trade laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 1499. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction to members of the Armed Forces serving in a combat zone for contributions to their individual retirement plans even if the compensation on which such contribution is based is excluded from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DREIER (for himself and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1500. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the 2003 reduction in the individual capital gains tax rates permanent and to further reduce and simplify such rates and to reduce the corporate capital gains rate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. RYUN of Kansas):

H.R. 1501. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act with respect to penalties for powder cocaine and crack cocaine offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERMAN (for himself and Mr. DELAHUNT):

H.R. 1502. A bill to restore civil liberties under the First Amendment, the Immigration and Nationality Act, and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. CANNON):

H.R. 1503. A bill to designate certain lands in the Cedar Mountains in the State of Utah as wilderness, to ensure the compatibility of such wilderness and wildness study areas with continued access by the Armed Forces to the special use airspace and lands that comprise the Utah Test and Training Range, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FILNER, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. MICHAUD):



H.R. 1504. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for host families of foreign exchange and other students from \$50 per month to \$200 per month; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. POE):

H.R. 1505. A bill to revise the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. SIMMONS):

H.R. 1506. A bill to improve the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 1507. A bill to establish the Food Safety Administration to protect the public health by preventing food-borne illness, ensuring the safety of food, improving research on contaminants leading to food-borne illness, and improving security of food from intentional contamination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EMANUEL (for himself, Mr. COOPER, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. BECERRA):

H.R. 1508. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to facilitate automatic enrollment in 401(k) plans, and for related purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOLEY (for himself and Mr. SHAW):

H.R. 1509. A bill to create an inspection program that uses videophone systems at certain points of entry in Florida to satisfy customs and immigration reporting requirements; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. FOLEY (for himself, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SHAW, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Ms. HART, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1510. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the depreciation recovery period for roof systems; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FOLEY (for himself, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. HAYWORTH, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. SIMPSON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. OTTER, Mr. WELLER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCCRERY, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 1511. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 5-year extension of the credit for electricity produced from wind; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 1512. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 1513. A bill to exempt from the Freedom of Information Act certain photographic images of deceased persons that are taken by or for medical examiners; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 1514. A bill to reserve a small percentage of the amounts made available to the Secretary of Agriculture for the farmland protection program to fund challenge grants to encourage the purchase of conservation easements and other interests in land to be held by a State agency, county, or other eligible entity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. JINDAL (for himself, Mr. BAKER, and Mr. MCCRERY):

H.R. 1515. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Barataria Preserve Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. JINDAL:

H.R. 1516. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for expenditures incurred by the taxpayer to restore or protect wetlands from coastal erosion; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. HERGER, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. NEY, Mr. STEARNS, and Mr. SIMMONS):

H.R. 1517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. FOLEY, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1518. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to include educational assistance provided to dependents of employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. EMANUEL):

H.R. 1519. A bill to help American families save, invest, and build a better future, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky:

H.R. 1520. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax on distilled spirits, wine, and beer to be collected quarterly from certain small taxpayers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. WATSON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 1521. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny all deductions for business expenses associated with the use of a club that discriminates on the basis of sex, race, or color; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY (for herself, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 1522. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the loan forgiveness and loan cancellation programs for teachers, to provide loan forgiveness and loan cancellation programs for nurses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY (for herself, Mr. OWENS, and Mrs. MALONEY):

H.R. 1523. A bill to provide student loan forgiveness to the surviving spouses of the victims of the September 11, 2001, tragedies; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MOORE of Kansas (for himself, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas):

H.R. 1524. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, as the "Ed Eilert Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1525. A bill to establish the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OTTER (for himself, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. PAUL, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah):

H.R. 1526. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and title 18, United States Code, to strengthen protections of civil liberties in the exercise of the foreign intelligence surveillance authorities under Federal law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 1527. A bill to remove all embargoes on food, medicine, and medical supplies; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 1528. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to protect vulnerable persons from drug trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 1529. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to provide for Federal and State coordination of permitting for electric transmission facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 1530. A bill to encourage the development of hydroelectric projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H. Con. Res. 124. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation and supporting the goals and ideals of National Donate Life Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. SERRANO, Ms.

CARSON, Mr. TANNER, Mr. WYNN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. McCAUL of Texas, Mr. BAKER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. CASE, Mr. FILNER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DICKS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. FORTU@O):

H. Con. Res. 125. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the designation and goals of "Hire a Veteran Week" and encouraging the President to issue a proclamation supporting those goals; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. KLINE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Mr. SABO):

H. Con. Res. 126. Concurrent resolution expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the Congress in the aftermath of the recent school shooting at Red Lake High School in Red Lake, Minnesota; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HYDE:

H. Res. 190. A resolution honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LANTOS (for himself and Mr. TANCREDO):

H. Res. 191. A resolution urging the Government of Romania to recognize its responsibilities to provide equitable, prompt, and fair restitution to all religious communities for property confiscated by the former Communist government in Romania; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H. Res. 192. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives encouraging the active engagement of American in world affairs and urging the Secretary of State to take the lead and coordinate with other governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations in creating an online database of international exchange programs and related opportunities; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MACK, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BAKER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WELLER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CANNON, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, and Mr. WELDON of Florida):

H. Res. 193. A resolution expressing support to the organizers and participants of the historic meeting of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba on May 20, 2005, in Havana; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H. Res. 194. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in support of Federal and State funded in-home care for the elderly; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KINGSTON (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. TERRY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. OTTER, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina):

H. Res. 195. A resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and the Liberation of Western Bohemia; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. WATT, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H. Res. 196. A resolution recognizing the anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment and encouraging the American people to educate and instill pride and purpose into their communities and to observe the anniversary annually with appropriate programs and activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HOYER, Ms. DeLAURO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TANNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. DICKS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. FALCONE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SABO, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. OWENS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. OLVER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WATSON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. STARK, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FARR, Mr. CASE, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. LEE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio):

H. Res. 197. A resolution honoring Franklin Delano Roosevelt; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Ms. FOX, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HAYES, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. WATT, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina):

H. Res. 198. A resolution congratulating the University of North Carolina men's basketball team for winning the 2005 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

H. Res. 199. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the massacre at Srebrenica in July 1995; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. STRICKLAND (for himself, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, and Mr. SWEENEY):

H. Res. 200. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week" and honoring the service of correctional officers and employees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 1531. A bill for the relief of Veronica Kehinde Akintade; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CARSON:

H. Res. 201. A resolution referring the bill (H.R. 1328) entitled "A bill for the relief of Adela and Darryl Bailor" to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a report thereon; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 8: Mr. POE, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 21: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 22: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 25: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 29: Mr. McCAUL of Texas.

H.R. 37: Mr. MACK.

H.R. 40: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 47: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 63: Mr. OLVER and Mrs. MCCARTHY.

H.R. 64: Mr. LINDER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. HART, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 114: Mr. ACKERMAN.

H.R. 127: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 128: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BECERRA, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 136: Mr. NEY.

H.R. 147: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. JEFFERSON.

H.R. 153: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 154: Mr. BERRY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. SKELTON.

H.R. 198: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 215: Mr. TERRY, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 228: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 297: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 311: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. WAXMAN.

- H.R. 312: Ms. WOOLSEY.  
H.R. 313: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.  
H.R. 328: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland and Mr. LATOURETTE.  
H.R. 330: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.  
H.R. 331: Mr. PETRI.  
H.R. 339: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. KUHL of New York.  
H.R. 356: Ms. FOXX and Mr. BOUSTANY.  
H.R. 373: Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. GORDON, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.  
H.R. 378: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mr. KANJORSKI.  
H.R. 400: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. SHADEGG.  
H.R. 408: Mr. GALLEGLY.  
H.R. 414: Mr. FOLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. KUHL of New York.  
H.R. 415: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. BALDWIN.  
H.R. 421: Mr. PALLONE.  
H.R. 475: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.  
H.R. 476: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.  
H.R. 513: Mr. McNULTY, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. BECERRA.  
H.R. 514: Mr. KIND.  
H.R. 525: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois and Mr. LATHAM.  
H.R. 534: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.  
H.R. 551: Mr. BECERRA and Mr. STARK.  
H.R. 558: Mr. BERRY.  
H.R. 565: Mr. HINCHEY.  
H.R. 581: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. UPTON.  
H.R. 595: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan and Ms. BALDWIN.  
H.R. 596: Mr. BOOZMAN.  
H.R. 609: Mr. BONILLA.  
H.R. 633: Mr. CARDIN.  
H.R. 653: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 654: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.  
H.R. 659: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. MCCRERY, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARROW, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WOLF, Mr. PAUL, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BAKER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. SOUDER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. SIMMONS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GORDON, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.  
H.R. 669: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. MELANCON.  
H.R. 670: Mr. FATTAH.  
H.R. 689: Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 737: Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 739: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.  
H.R. 740: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.  
H.R. 741: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.  
H.R. 742: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.  
H.R. 748: Mr. TURNER.  
H.R. 759: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 772: Mr. PASTOR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.  
H.R. 778: Mr. FORTUÑO.  
H.R. 788: Mr. MATHESON.  
H.R. 793: Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. MCCRERY.  
H.R. 797: Mr. RAHALL.  
H.R. 808: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HALL, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. KIRK, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 838: Ms. WATERS, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. FATTAH.  
H.R. 845: Mrs. MYRICK.  
H.R. 857: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.  
H.R. 867: Ms. WOOLSEY.  
H.R. 871: Mr. NADLER.  
H.R. 874: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.  
H.R. 923: Mr. BOUCHER.  
H.R. 928: Mr. MENENDEZ.  
H.R. 930: Mr. MICA.  
H.R. 934: Mr. ROSS and Mr. DOYLE.  
H.R. 939: Mr. CLAY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FILNER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. CONYERS.  
H.R. 940: Mr. PUTNAM.  
H.R. 952: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MICHAUD, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.  
H.R. 963: Mr. HOBSON.  
H.R. 972: Mr. BACHUS, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. PALLONE.  
H.R. 994: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GORDON, Mr. KLINE, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. TURNER, Mr. INSLEE, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. WU, Mr. ROSS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. FORD, Mr. DeFAZIO, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. PASTOR.  
H.R. 997: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. HAYWORTH.  
H.R. 998: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. HAYWORTH.  
H.R. 1017: Mr. WELDON of Florida.  
H.R. 1023: Mr. EHLERS.  
H.R. 1048: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.  
H.R. 1049: Mr. UPTON.  
H.R. 1055: Mr. GORDON.  
H.R. 1073: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.  
H.R. 1074: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.  
H.R. 1075: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.  
H.R. 1088: Mr. BISHOP of New York.  
H.R. 1095: Mr. WALSH.  
H.R. 1114: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.  
H.R. 1119: Mr. STUPAK.  
H.R. 1131: Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 1145: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.  
H.R. 1146: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.  
H.R. 1151: Mr. JINDAL, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. TERRY, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mrs. CUBIN, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GORDON, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. ALEXANDER.  
H.R. 1183: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.  
H.R. 1184: Mr. CASE.  
H.R. 1193: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 1201: Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.  
H.R. 1204: Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. OLVER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WU, Ms. LEE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.  
H.R. 1214: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.  
H.R. 1217: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.  
H.R. 1219: Mr. DeFAZIO.  
H.R. 1227: Mr. CARDIN and Mr. CAPUANO.  
H.R. 1241: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. CRAMER.  
H.R. 1248: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.  
H.R. 1249: Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.  
H.R. 1262: Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. OLVER, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. CASE, Mr. KIND, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. BORDALLO.  
H.R. 1281: Mr. SPRATT.  
H.R. 1286: Mr. KOLBE, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.  
H.R. 1295: Mr. KING of New York.  
H.R. 1297: Mr. ACKERMAN.  
H.R. 1306: Mr. OTTER, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. COX, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. HAYES, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. NEY.  
H.R. 1313: Mr. EHLERS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1314: Mr. MARSHALL.  
H.R. 1322: Ms. DeLAURO and Mr. McINTYRE.  
H.R. 1333: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. OLVER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. WYNN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. HYDE, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 1351: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. MICHAUD.  
H.R. 1356: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. BOUCHER.  
H.R. 1357: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.  
H.R. 1363: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.  
H.R. 1365: Ms. BERKLEY.  
H.R. 1379: Mr. RAMSTAD.  
H.R. 1380: Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. MCCOTTER.  
H.R. 1400: Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.  
H.R. 1405: Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. McDERMOTT.  
H.R. 1406: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.  
H.R. 1419: Mr. OWENS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. PALLONE.  
H.R. 1421: Mr. LEACH and Mr. REGULA.  
H.R. 1438: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.  
H.R. 1440: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.  
H.J. Res. 16: Mr. HALL and Mr. MILLER of Florida.  
H.J. Res. 39: Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. KUHL of New York.  
H. Con. Res. 24: Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. CONYERS.  
H. Con. Res. 35: Mr. OLVER.  
H. Con. Res. 41: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.  
H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. CANNON.  
H. Con. Res. 61: Mr. EVANS.  
H. Con. Res. 71: Mr. HONDA.  
H. Con. Res. 83: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.  
H. Con. Res. 97: Mr. FILNER and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Con. Res. 108: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H. Res. 76: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Res. 84: Mr. MCCRERY.

H. Res. 85: Mr. DOGGETT.

H. Res. 127: Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. REYES, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. CARSON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. LEE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. FALCOMA, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H. Res. 142: Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 148: Mr. FEENEY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Ms. WATERS.

H. Res. 158: Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H. Res. 172: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 183: Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. WATT, Mr. ROSS, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Ms. CARSON, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H. Res. 185: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H. Res. 186: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. REYES, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. CASE, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BERRY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. FARR, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. PASCRELL,

Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MELANCON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. FORD, Mr. HONDA, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 188: Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. FORBES, Mr. CASTLE, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. HERGER, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. MENENDEZ.

#### DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 740: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 742: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.